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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2024-25
PART I (2024) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

MADRID, SPAIN

2025

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2024)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Costa Rica, 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, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, The Gambia, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

E. PENAS LADO, EU
(since 23 November 2021)

First Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO
(since 23 November 2021)

Second Vice Chair

R. CHONG, CURAÇAO
(since 23 November 2021)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

-1- Tropical tunas

Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Ghana

-2- Temperate tunas, North

Albania, Algeria, Belize, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Egypt, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Senegal, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, and Venezuela.

Japan

-3- Temperate tunas, South

Angola, Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States and Uruguay.

South Africa

-4- Other species

Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Algeria

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

Chair

D. WARNER-KRAMER, United States
(since 23 November 2021)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Subcommittee on Statistics: Pedro Lino (European Union), Convener

Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch: A. DOMINGO (Uruguay), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

C. BROWN, United States
(since 30 September 2022)

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)

E. PENAS LADO, European Union
(since 23 November 2021)
C. BROWN, United States
(since 30 September 2022)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: CAMILLE JEAN PIERRE MANEL

Assistant Executive Secretary: MIGUEL NEVES DOS SANTOS

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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, 2024-2025, Part I (2024)"***, 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 24th Special Meeting of the Commission (Hybrid/Limassol, Cyprus, 11-18 November 2024) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Subcommittees, 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). All Volumes 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 2d, 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.

ERNESTO PENAS LADO
Commission Chairman

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**Proceedings of the 24th Special Meeting of the International
Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

(hybrid / Limassol, Cyprus, 11-18 November 2024)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Ernesto Penas, Chair of the Commission, welcomed all the participants and introduced the dignitaries in attendance: Dr Maria Panayiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus, Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG-MARE, Mr Yiannis Armeftis, Mayor of Limassol, who delivered words of welcome, Ms. Eliana Tofa-Christidou, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Directorate-General for the Environment of Cyprus, Ms Marina Argyrou, Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of Cyprus.

Mr Camille Manel, Executive Secretary, also made some opening remarks, following which the Chair outlined what he considered were some of the key elements for discussion at this 24th Special Session, and declared the meeting open.

All the opening speeches are contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

2. Adoption of Agenda, meeting arrangements and appointment of Rapporteur

Following some minor changes, the Agenda was adopted and is contained in **ANNEX 1**.

The ICCAT Secretariat served as Rapporteur.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties and indicated whether or not they were participating in-person or online. The following 49 parties were in attendance: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados (online), Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde (online), Canada, China (P.R.), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union (EU), France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation (online), São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leona (online), South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines (online), Trinidad and Tobago (online), Tunisia, Türkiye (online), United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Statements were submitted to the plenary sessions by Japan, Panama, Türkiye, and the EU in response to Türkiye's statement, which are contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

4. Introduction of Observers

The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the observers attending the meeting; three of the four Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities were also in attendance: Bolivia (online), Chinese Taipei and Suriname. A total of six Intergovernmental Organizations were present: Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) (online); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (online); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT); Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA); and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) (online).

Twenty-five Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) also attended the meeting: Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable y Seguridad Alimentaria/Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security (ALPESCAS); Association Euroméditerranéenne des Pêcheurs Professionnels de Thon (AEPPT); Birdlife International (BI) (online); Brazilian Association of Fish Industries (ABIPESCA) (online); Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz/German Foundation for Marine Conservation (DSM); Ecology Action Centre (EAC); Européche; Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP); Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP); Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP) (online); Global Fishing Watch (GFW); Global Tuna Alliance (GTA); International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Manta Trust (online); Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) (online); Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) (online); Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew); Red Iberoamericana de Pesca Artesanal de Pequeña Escala (RIPAPE); Sciaena; The Billfish Foundation (TBF) (online); The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPLNF) (online); The Ocean Foundation; The Shark Trust; Tuna Producer Association (TPA); and Worldwide Fund For Nature (WWF). These are included in the list of participants (**ANNEX 2**).

Statements were submitted by the following NGOs: Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sostenible y Seguridad Alimentaria/Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security (ALPESCAS); Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz/German Foundation for Marine Conservation (DSM); Ecology Action Centre (EAC)*; Européche*; Global Fishing Watch (GFW); Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)*; Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP)*; International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew); Red Iberoamericana de Pesca Artesanal de Pequeña Escala (RIPAPE)*; Sciaena; The Shark Trust; and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)*. These are contained in **ANNEX 3.3**.

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

The Chair of the SCRS, Dr Craig Brown, informed about its 2024 activities. He acknowledged the demands of a busy year placed on CPC scientists and the Secretariat. He explained the challenges faced by the SCRS, in a year with a large number of meetings. He explained how research programme managers had been asked to make longer-term strategic research plans and that Terms of Reference would be developed earlier to facilitate the Secretariat's task. He indicated that the SCRS needs to find a more efficient way to develop better advice and that the Commission needs to be clear on what it requires from the SCRS so that the SCRS can do this with the human and financial means available.

The Chair informed about all the tasks that had been carried out by the Secretariat, as well as the assessments performed, highlighting the number of participants in the meetings and the need to facilitate greater involvement from scientists that participate remotely. He also gave an overview of the status of the stocks, indicating the status of each stock according to the Kobe plot. He presented a summary of the 2024 SCRS Workshop, informing about the new SCRS Strategic Plan for 2026-2031, which is expected to be adopted in 2025 by both the SCRS and the Commission. Moreover, he presented the new template proposals for the executive summaries, indicating that two examples had been prepared: one for albacore, which has a management procedure, and the other for yellowfin, which does not have a management procedure. He also indicated that, so that information is not lost, the new templates include an additional information section. These templates will start to be used from 2025. In addition, he provided a summary of the research programmes and the results obtained and presented the schedule of meetings and assessments proposed for 2025. He also presented a proposal to develop a mechanism to identify and monitor the status of Commission requests and SCRS responses. Finally, he referred to his recent re-election as SCRS Chair and the election of a Vice-Chair to be held at a later date.

The Commission Chair thanked the SCRS Chair for his work and opened the floor to questions.

It was discussed whether the election of the SCRS Vice Chair should be the responsibility of the SCRS Chair or the SCRS itself. Some CPCs considered that the SCRS should choose the SCRS Vice Chair and others maintained that, in line with the previous practice which had already been brought before the Commission, which was in agreement, the SCRS Chair should choose the SCRS Vice Chair. One CPC proposed that it be placed on record that the Commission agrees that the SCRS Chair can choose the Vice Chair so that the person is more than a mere assistant, even being able to stand in for the SCRS Chair. The suggestion was accepted.

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

Several CPCs noted the importance of interpretation at SCRS meetings, as this is essential for effective participation and decision-making. It was noted that efforts need to be made, since decisions need to be inclusive and equitable. The Executive Secretary explained some of the operational difficulties, such as the availability of interpreters and the meeting venue, since for the species groups, three parallel sessions can be held.

The United Kingdom presented its “Development of a new SCRS Science Strategic Plan”, requesting the views of the other CPCs on the Strategic Plan. It noted that the current Plan does not establish when interactions between the SCRS and the Commission will occur, noting that the Commission's role is not to tell the SCRS what to say but to ensure that resources are available and that there is full prioritization and transversality. It also indicated the need to regularly review the Strategic Plan to see if the objectives are being met and to adjust needs. In addition, it noted the importance of dialogue in expediting collaboration and assisting in the development of this Plan. Several CPCs expressed their support for the UK document and in relation to many points in the SCRS Chair's presentation, such as the election of the Vice Chair, the use of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) as a forum to develop the Strategic Plan, the template for SCRS requests from the Commission, etc. Some CPCs called for further reflection on these important matters. There was some support for seeking external support and expertise to develop the Strategic Plan, while other CPCs indicated that SCRS Officers could take responsibility.

As regards the “Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2023 and revised by the SCRS in 2024”, the SCRS Chair recalled the SCRS discussions this year on the increasing demand for science in relation to Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), on the progress in developing the strategic plan, on identification and prioritization of MSE for the different stocks based on scientific issues, and on the ability of the SCRS to assume this task. He then summarized the different situations of the ongoing MSEs (ALB-N, BFT, TRO and SWO-N). As regards the two new MSEs (ALB-S and BSH) adopted in 2024, he indicated that a feasibility study could be carried out in 2025. The SCRS Chair noted that as all the Panels are involved in these processes, the workload would be very heavy. The SCRS should therefore take this roadmap into account when developing the Strategic Plan and consider what it can take on and inform the Commission next year. He reminded the Commission that the roadmap is a living document that is modified by both the SCRS and the Commission. The SCRS should therefore consider what can feasibly be done properly. He expressed his view that it is a huge workload for the SCRS given all the other matters that it must attend to.

The Commission Chair indicated two ways forward: either to decide which MSEs are lower priority or to accept the SCRS Chair's suggestion of discussing priorities and capabilities within the activity that is being implemented as part of the Strategic Plan. He indicated that, in his view, the second option reduces the risk of lengthy discussions as each CPC has its priorities. One CPC (EU) expressed that a pragmatic approach would be for the SCRS to start work on the MSE for blue sharks in 2025, and, as the Strategic Plan will be discussed, there will be an opportunity to plan this MSE and leave it open so that it can be decided what is feasible, without imposing deadlines implying an additional workload. The EU noted that, with this flexibility, it may be possible to incorporate the new MSEs adopted this year, without setting negative priorities. Several CPCs agreed, noting that these discussions could take place within the SWGSM. And following feedback from the SCRS, the Commission could discuss in 2025 the issues related to the roadmap and set priorities.

There was agreement on the roadmap. It was indicated that the roadmap should be included next year on the agenda and that hopefully the Strategic Plan will also be discussed.

One CPC (Canada) expressed its support for the proposals that had been made earlier by several CPCs. It recommended that the Secretariat include next year at the start of the meeting an item dedicated to this matter so that it is not discussed last minute given that it generates much debate, because, as indicated by the SCRS Chair, all Panels are involved and it requires significant consideration and in-depth discussion. Another CPC (United Kingdom) signalled its agreement, and requested that all the MSEs be included in the roadmap, as a comprehensive document. The revised version of the roadmap was adopted and is attached in **ANNEX 6.1**.

The observer from the Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz/German Foundation for Marine Conservation (DSM) made an oral statement on sharks expressing disappointment that this year had seen a decline in their status, in particular, shortfin mako shark. She explained that, instead of action being taken to reduce mortality rates, an assessment had been scheduled which, although much appreciated given the importance of stock assessments, will not provide measures to reduce mortality. She also expressed disappointment at the rejection of an early intersessional meeting being held to address this problem. She welcomed the EU's proposal to include blue sharks in the MSE Roadmap and expressed the hope that it will not be rejected next year, since it is important that these commercially valuable stocks are fished sustainably.

6. Review of the reports of the 2024 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions

It was agreed that the various reports would be considered by the relevant subsidiary bodies. The [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE](#) and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) were submitted to Panel 1. The [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#) was submitted to Panel 2. The [Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\)](#), the [Report of the Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group \(EMS WG\)](#), the [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance \(PIEG\)](#), the [Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\)](#) and the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) were submitted to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). Lastly, the [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#) was submitted to the Compliance Committee (COC).

The Chair indicated that the majority of the reports of the intersessional meetings would be addressed by the relevant subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the reports of the meetings of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC), which would be addressed under Agenda item 11.

Furthermore, as regards the [Report of the Virtual Working Group on Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission \(VWG-RRP\)](#), the Chair explained that the Group had been established to resolve the issue of the election of officers that will be held next year. He requested that the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) review the draft guidelines on the election of ICCAT officers that the VWG-RP developed, with a view to finalizing the text and providing a recommended text for Plenary's consideration at its next session.

7. Final review of follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of the need for future Performance Review

The Secretariat explained that the "Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review - Plenary Sessions" is an update of last year's document.

The Chair and several CPCs emphasized that it is important for all CPCs to ratify the Convention. One CPC (United Kingdom) indicated that it had completed the process this year and urged other CPCs to do the same.

Another CPC (Côte d'Ivoire) requested that the list of CPCs that have not ratified the Convention be made available by the end of the meeting. The Executive Secretary explained that there are only 7 CPCs that have ratified, i.e. the EU, Norway, Canada, Japan, Belize, the United Kingdom and Costa Rica, noting that there are currently 53 CPCs, and that there is therefore still a long way to go.

8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

The Chair indicated that this item would be addressed in STACFAD, and revisited when STACFAD presents its report in the Plenary.

9. Cooperation with and updates relating to other organisations

9.1 Cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)

The Executive Secretary presented the revised document “International cooperation”. He indicated that since ICCAT covers a vast geographical area, there is collaboration with various organizations, including the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). A letter of agreement has been signed with the latter under which two issues in particular have been addressed this year: turtle bycatch, which is a subject of great interest and much progress has been made; and driftnets in the Mediterranean, on which little progress has been made. As regards the latter, the EU presented a “Discussion paper on driftnets”, to clarify this issue in an area shared by both Commissions i.e. the Mediterranean.

The GFCM Chairperson indicated that the GFCM was willing to continue this collaboration and that it had participated in several ICCAT meetings. He also stressed that it is important for the joint work on sea turtles to be considered in all ICCAT fisheries.

The Executive Secretary indicated that ICCAT also collaborated with the FAO in the framework of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ2) and has participated in the Steering Committee since the inception, and that he is the Chair until the next session. He noted that studies had been carried out on ecosystem approaches and indicators, and on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). He also indicated that collaboration with different Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) will take place over the course of three meetings: on bycatch in January 2025; on MSE in 2026; and on stock assessment in 2027.

In addition, the Executive Secretary mentioned collaboration with the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) and noted that letters of cooperation with the WECAFC had been signed in 2024. A “Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)” has also been drafted.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretary indicated that he had also collaborated with the Regional Coordination Group on Large Pelagics (RCG LP) of the EU, and the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC). There had also been requests for further coordination in the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), and therefore an annual in-person meeting of the Secretariats of the tuna RFMOs has been proposed. Moreover, the MoU with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) was also revised, as the document dated from 2015. The “Draft of the updated Memorandum of Understanding between the CCSBT and ICCAT Secretariats for transshipment at sea by large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs)” was submitted for approval.

The EU indicated that collaboration is important, in particular with the GFCM as regards driftnets. It referred to its document on this subject “Discussion paper on driftnets” with regard to compliance with measures and the request for collaboration with the GFCM contained therein. The EU also signalled that the MoU with ICES is paramount, given that it is critical to define collaboration on the ecosystem approach and methodologies and to improve data and practices, noting that this MoU would provide an opportunity to access broader scientific knowledge. As to the updated MoU with CCSBT, the EU indicated that it was unclear what the differences are, i.e. what is being updated.

The Secretariat clarified the updates and indicated that the main change is that transshipment declarations are being taken into account ([Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment \(Rec. 21-15\)](#)).

The United States expressed its approval of an MoU with ICES as collaboration on climate change issues is timely. The United States suggested a minor modification to the document and a revised version was produced. It also indicated its approval of the MoU with the CCSBT. As regards ICCAT's cooperation with the WECAFC, the United States recalled that voluntary funds had already been committed in support of a meeting to coordinate the two organizations' capacity building work in the region. There were no concerns with this approach.

As regards the MoU with the CCSBT, China (P.R.) indicated that it was not currently a member of that Commission but thanked the Secretariat for the information on the transshipment declaration and expressed its approval.

Both MoUs were adopted by the Commission and are contained in **ANNEXES 6.2** and **6.3**.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- Updated Memorandum of Understanding between the CCSBT and ICCAT Secretariats for transshipment at sea by large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs)

9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2

Mr Joe Zelasny, lead of the Common Oceans Tuna Project, indicated that the project, which is in its second phase, promotes responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production, as well as the conservation of biodiversity in a changing environment. He explained that the project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is implemented by the FAO. It consists of 25 organizations including the five tuna RFMOs, intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society. ICCAT leads four main activities: capacity building to improve compliance with conservation and management measures, including but not limited to port inspection; improvement of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) with the aim of developing open source components that can be shared with and used by other tuna RFMOs; generation of ecosystem-based operational models using Ecotest to understand how management policies influence ecosystem indicators; and finally, organisation of three joint tuna RFMO working groups on bycatch, stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). The first working group will meet at the FAO headquarters from 27 to 29 January 2025.

He also indicated that, in addition to these activities led by ICCAT, other activities related to tuna projects carried out by other partners will provide benefits globally as well as in the ICCAT region.

Finally, he indicated that the Tuna Project is firmly committed to working with ICCAT CPCs. He thanked the Secretariat for the opportunity to address the Commission, as well as its leadership, technical support and close collaboration with the Tuna Project.

10. Discussion on implementation of biodiversity instruments

The Chair noted that the [*Resolution by ICCAT on the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments \(Res. 23-23\)*](#) was approved last year, which addressed coordination and engagement by ICCAT and its Members in relation to the implementation of recently concluded biodiversity conservation instruments, and that he was looking forward to the new SCRS Strategic Plan since it will address this issue. He also noted that the international community is moving quickly to implement the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which is a binding instrument that affects the high seas i.e. an area where ICCAT fleets operate. Therefore, when discussing the role that the RFMOs are going to play, the role of ICCAT is fundamental. He asked the Executive Secretary that the voice of the RFMOs be heard at the meetings.

The Executive Secretary explained that the Secretariat has been trying for years to make this an Agenda item, which involves scientific fisheries experts, some of whom, participate in the delegations to meetings of the biodiversity conservation instruments. He noted that delegates usually have roles related to the environment, but that more representation from the fisheries world is needed. He indicated that two preparatory meetings will be held and that it is important for ICCAT-related expertise to be represented, noting that it is necessary to clarify for ICCAT what will happen going forwards, what collaboration means at the operational level, how new marine protected areas will affect the assessments, etc. He summarized that, given that signatories to the BBNJ had the final decision, it is important that representatives from the fisheries world accompany the delegates.

11. Reports of the two intersessional meetings of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Dr Kelly Kryc, Chair of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change, summarized the progress made by the Group at the two meetings and informed that the “Revised ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change” had been endorsed by the group at its most recent intersessional meeting. This plan determines the tasks for the SCRS and the Commission until 2026 with the aim of focusing on management issues related to climate change and also calls for climate change to be included in the agendas of the SCRS and the Panels for follow up on this issue.

Finally, she informed that the Action Plan also indicated that the SWGSM is the forum for future discussions and that the idea is for the SWGSM to meet in 2026 to discuss climate change.

One CPC noted that ICCAT is already addressing climate change, although not in a coordinated manner, and that regardless of the form, it is important there is some space with a clear mandate on the issue. As regards the SWGSM, it noted that the Terms of Reference would need to be revised (*Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (Rec. 14-13)*).

The Chair of Panel 2 asked how to handle the fact that climate change is being incorporated into the Panel agendas.

Another CPC noted that climate change is the challenge of our time, so it is important for ICCAT to adapt as it is an emergency that ICCAT must now face.

Finally, the “Report of the Meeting of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC)” and the “Report of the Second Meeting of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC)” and the “Revised ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change” were adopted.

12. Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)

Dr Kelly Kryc, Chair of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC) presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-13 on enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers”. She explained that at the “Second Meeting of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change” in October 2024, it had been discussed how to establish a process among scientists but that delegates from some CPCs had been concerned about establishing another standing working group so it was decided to revise the Terms of Reference of the SWGSM.

The Chair presented the modifications, such as incorporation of climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem approaches, the new role of this group to follow up on the “Revised ICCAT Plan of Action on Climate Change”, etc.

Some CPCs commented on the proposal, including that the group could also consider ICCAT’s relationship with the BBNJ as well as the workload of the SCRS and what reorganisation needs to take place so that it can focus on these issues.

The Chair included the proposed amendments, and a revised version of the document was approved. It was noted that the 2026 meeting is to address climate change, but that in 2025 the SWGSM may decide to address other issues.

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

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States), Chair of STACFAD, informed the Commission that STACFAD had held three sessions and had reviewed and adopted two reports prepared by the Secretariat: the “2024 Administrative Report” and the “2024 Financial Report”. In addition, it was noted that the Working Capital Fund has remained in a healthy position, and that it is forecast that at year-end it will be above the recommended minimum balance of 15% of the annual budget.

STACFAD noted that some documents, including the “2024 Financial Report”, had been published only a few days before the annual meeting and urged the Secretariat to post the documents sufficiently in advance to allow CPCs time to review them.

STACFAD reviewed the current information on CPCs in arrears with their 2024 budget contributions as well as those with accumulated debt from previous years. It acknowledged the efforts that some CPCs had made to reduce their accumulated debt, even though it remained high. And the STACFAD Chair encouraged CPCs to submit payment plans to settle their debts and requested that STACFAD documents clearly show in the future which CPCs had submitted payment plans.

Several CPCs indicated that they intended to regularize their financial situations by payment of contributions as soon as possible.

The Chair presented the [Report of the Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on a Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT \(VWG-SF\)](#), in particular the ideas to reduce the cost of the ICCAT annual meeting and intersessional meetings. As regards the annual meeting, it was noted that the idea was to look for ways to reduce, if necessary, the total number of in-person participants and to change the layout of the room so that more venues to host the meeting can be found. As to the intersessional meetings, it was noted that one idea was to develop a multi-year work plan. The schedule would be reviewed at the start of the annual meeting to enable better planning, possibly limiting the number of meetings or meeting days each year. The Chair also indicated that two of the recommendations had been implemented this year: the number of participants at the table has been reduced to two, and the schedule was published on the first day of the meeting.

As regards the budget, STACFAD reviewed the SCRS research activities requiring funding, the revised budget and associated contributions for 2025, as well as the eBCD budget and associated contributions. The need to limit increases in the budget and ensure that the requested amounts are aligned with actual expenses was recognised. It was agreed that the contribution for 2025 to the science envelope should be €0, while noting that this is a one-off situation and does not represent a change in the Commission's commitment to providing regular financial support to the SCRS in the future.

STACFAD approved the revised budget for 2025, with an increase of 3% with respect to 2024 and a decrease of almost 4% with respect to the draft budget provisionally adopted by the Commission in 2023.

STACFAD also welcomed the greater level of detail provided by the Secretariat in the budget-related documents presented this year, noting that this could be improved as further detail and transparency would enable CPCs to make informed decisions.

In addition, STACFAD decided that the VWG-SF should reconvene in 2025, focusing on two tasks: to develop new templates for presenting ICCAT financial information, including the budget; and to fully review the rules of the Meeting Participation Fund.

In relation to the “Guidelines for the Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies”, she explained that they had been reviewed and finalized. The revised version was adopted by STACFAD.

Finally, the STACFAD Chair explained that the Secretariat had informed her of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Spain affecting the pensions of Secretariat staff, as well as some recent developments which might make it necessary to relocate the seat of the Secretariat in the coming years. As regards the Supreme Court ruling, delegations requested additional information which was sent to Head Delegates and it was decided to leave the issue open for consideration next year.

The Chair indicated that these two issues had highlighted that the Seat Agreement with Spain, made in 1971, was outdated, and STACFAD requested the Commission to authorise the Secretariat to enter into discussions with the Government of Spain to update the Agreement.

Several CPCs agreed that the Secretariat should initiate informal discussions with the Government of Spain in order to modernize the Agreement on Seat, noting that the Secretariat would then present the information to the Commission so that it could make an informed decision.

The Draft 2025 ICCAT budget, the Draft 2025 eBCD system budget and the “Guidelines for the Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies” were presented to the Plenaries for adoption. All three documents were adopted. The adopted 2025 budget is contained in **Tables 1-7 of ANNEX 7** and the adopted 2025 eBCD system budget is contained in **eBCD Tables 1-7 of ANNEX 7**. And the adopted Guidelines for the Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**.

A CPC noted that no consensus was reached on specific cuts to the science budget, only on a bottom line cut to the science budget, and hoped that more time would be available in future technical discussions on this issue so that the SCRS could be the one to apply the cut. The SCRS Chair indicated that this cut had been made in consultation with him and the Secretariat and that he had been involved throughout the process. The Commission Chair clarified that this was an exceptional situation.

It was agreed that the Report of STACFAD would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 7**.

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

Panel 1

The Chair of Panel 1 informed that two intersessional meetings had been held during the 2023 and 2024 intersessional period of the Commission: [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 on Western Skipjack MSE \(online, 20-21 February 2024\)](#) and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 \(Hybrid/Natal, Brazil, 22-24 May 2024\)](#).

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that no new analyses had been carried out for the western skipjack Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) since the 2023 Commission meeting, but that various discussions had taken place on the way forward and that a new contract will be signed this year.

It was recalled that during the first intersessional meeting, Dr Rodrigo Sant'Ana gave a presentation on the western skipjack MSE process. He provided input for Panel 1 decision-making on the specifications of the management procedure (MP) and described the current progress in the development of the MSE. He also presented the data requirements for improving the western skipjack MSE and an update of the work plan, indicating the importance of discussions that could lead to the possible adoption of management measures later this year. The report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence.

As regards the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1, the Chair indicated that 30 CPCs participated and that the fishing plans and the declarations on fishery development submitted by the CPCs were reviewed during the meeting; improvements to the structure of the plans and the capacity table were suggested.

The Chair of Panel 1 presented his “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” and the document “Catch limits for CPCs according to alternatives 1 and 2 of paragraph 4 table in the Chair’s Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” (PA1_MAY_23/2024) prepared by the Secretariat following the indications of the Chair. Following the presentation of these documents, discussions were held on various issues: the TAC, participation of developing coastal States, the proposed allocation key, catch limits, the FAD closure period, limits on the number of FADs, human and electronic observer coverage, etc. The suggestions and requested changes from various CPCs were discussed. Although the discussions that took place were very informative, it was agreed that more dialogue was needed; many CPCs considered that the conversation was very useful as it could be used as the basis for future discussions. Following the meeting, a roadmap for the subsequent correspondence process to be followed was circulated. The report was adopted by correspondence.

Following the presentation by the Chair of Panel 1, the Commission Chair indicated that only the table and paragraph 30 of the Panel 1 Chair’s proposal remained to be agreed.

The Chair of Panel 1 noted that the square brackets had been removed and explained the pending issues, including a last-minute proposal from Korea (Rep.) on the allocation table. China (P.R.) requested the inclusion of a footnote indicating that for the allocation table the category does not reflect the level of economic development of any CPC.

The Commission Chair indicated that he would not propose an extension to further discuss the proposal. The change proposed by Korea (Rep.) which would lead to a slight increase in the TAC was discussed. Some CPCs were in favour and others were against. One CPC (Gabon) indicated that it had already objected on three occasions to individual allocations and group allocations being included in the same table. The Chair noted that Guatemala had already explained that the group allocation for Curaçao, Panama, El Salvador, and Belize was to facilitate discussions and that once the table was adopted, the final figures for distribution among the four countries concerned would be provided. Guatemala also confirmed that the figures would be available following adoption of the table.

Korea (Rep.) explained that it intended to achieve a quota increase through a slight increase in the TAC rather than through subtraction from the quota of other CPCs, recalling the history of how Korea’s quota had been arrived at. The Chair indicated that there were only two options; either to increase the TAC slightly or for other CPCs to give up part of their quota. One CPC (Japan) expressed its opposition to an increase in TAC. It noted that other CPCs had made sacrifices and that the figure proposed by Korea (Rep.) did not involve any sacrifice. Another CPC (Côte d’Ivoire) indicated that its country also sought a revision, but that the proposal would be reviewed, and at that time its proposal could then be taken into account for future negotiations. Another CPC (EU) agreed with the rejection expressed by those CPCs, noting that an increase in TAC had already been denied on previous occasions and that Korea (Rep.) was among the CPCs in category A with the highest increase. Gabon indicated that it could not accept a last-minute increase in TAC, given that the allocation for Korea (Rep.) had been included in the table several days earlier. It also reiterated its enquiry regarding the duration of the measure, i.e. whether it is for one year or two years, and indicated that this document should not be an open door, but should be reviewed after the SCRS assessment. Gabon requested that it be put on record that this recommendation would not serve as a precedent or form the basis for future discussions as, in relation to allocations, no one wants to be judged on the past.

The Chair indicated that it had become clear that an increase in the TAC was not the solution. He asked if any CPCs would be generous, as they had been with Brazil to reach the desired figure, which is a model of generosity and responsibility. One CPC noted that everyone had made efforts and that now no more efforts could be made, indicating that it is time for Korea (Rep.) to revise its intentions. Japan indicated that, although in contradiction to its earlier intervention, the total of the catch limits and the reserve for small harvesters was already slightly higher than the TAC and therefore proposed that the limit for Korea (Rep.) be increased to 1100 t by adding 9 t, which could be negligible compared to the example of northern swordfish where the difference between the TAC and the total of the catch limits was greater. Korea (Rep.) thanked all CPCs and especially Japan for such a constructive comment, adding that it hoped that other CPCs would accept Japan’s suggestion. Japan’s proposal was accepted.

One CPC indicated that there were still issues to be resolved, some square brackets to be removed, etc. After some discussion, the square brackets were removed in point 4 and a choice was made between alternatives. The question of what will happen when Category C countries reach the threshold and start developing their fisheries was also discussed and the Chair indicated that this question should be raised in the future when the situation arises, although Category C countries should have the right to develop their fisheries. The Chair also indicated that there should be some flexibility as it is not known when the threshold will be exceeded. It was decided to remove all remaining brackets.

During the discussion on paragraph 30 of the document, Guatemala proposed a new sentence for inclusion in alternative 2. Moreover, Japan asked whether it was possible to carry out the analyses based on catch rates by fleet rather than by vessel; and the EU supported indicating that it would only be feasible to provide the information at fleet level rather than vessel level. Japan commented that it seemed that it would be more difficult for the SCRS to carry out the analyses and specifically asked what additional data and information are needed to conduct these analyses. The Secretariat explained that the recommendation indicates that these analyses can be carried out, at the highest level of resolution, by national scientists, which is preferred by the SCRS because they have access to the necessary level of aggregation. Since it is important for the information on vessels to be available, the Commission approved last year the manner in which the list of active vessels should be communicated. If this is complied with, the Secretariat will have the two necessary elements (active fishing vessels and FAD set data) and an analysis can be submitted to the SCRS for evaluation. Following addition of the sentence proposed by Guatemala, alternative 2 of paragraph 30 was adopted. Japan requested that the statement made by the Secretariat be recorded in the meeting notes.

Following resolution of some pending issues, such as the removal of some square brackets from the text and submission of figures by Guatemala for Central American CPCs, a revised version of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” was adopted. The Chair thanked the Chair of Panel 1 and all the CPCs for their generosity in reaching this consensus.

The revised version titled “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on interim operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna” was adopted, following the explanation of the amendments provided by the EU.

Furthermore, revised versions of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 23-02 on Brazil’s bigeye tuna payback plan” and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a candidate management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack tuna” were adopted.

Pew indicated that it recognized all the work done by the delegations on the tropical tunas measure. However, northern swordfish had been overallocated (40%), and now bigeye tuna was also being overallocated, albeit to a lesser extent. It explained that this species is currently classified as overfished and that CPCs in category C as a whole have exceeded the allocation of 6100 t over the past 7 years. It noted that exceeding the TAC is a practice that should not be endorsed as an answer to allocation concerns. It sought to highlight this point and to urge ICCAT to correct this in the near future.

Sciaena appreciated the efforts made by all to reach an agreement. The tropical tunas measure has for some time undermined ICCAT’s ability to make decisions and finally there is a glimpse of hope. However, it expressed concern that most of the conservation measures have been scaled back and that no new ones have been introduced. It indicated, however, that it hoped that the status of bigeye tuna and other tropical tuna stocks would be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, as this is crucial not only to ensure the health of the ecosystems of which they are a part but also to avoid social and economic impacts on the various communities that depend on them.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8.1**.

Panel 2

Mr Shingo Ota (Japan) informed that Panel 2 had held five sessions and that there had been no changes in panel membership.

Under Agenda item 5, the SCRS Chair informed about the status of the Mediterranean albacore stock. He also informed that no exceptional circumstances had been detected in the management procedure for North Atlantic albacore or Atlantic bluefin tuna, and that therefore the current TACs will be maintained. In addition, he suggested that, within the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), aerial surveys be continued and close-kin mark-recapture be strengthened, which would require additional funding in 2026, but this was not supported by Panel 2. It was agreed that the EU would discuss this matter with scientists and inform the Secretariat about how to proceed. Panel 2 welcomed the intention of the United States to contribute to the promotion of this new approach without any financial cost (i.e. through in-kind efforts).

The Chair of Panel 2 informed the Commission that the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#) had been approved by Panel 2.

Under Agenda item 7, the Chair presented the document “A case for Libya’s joint fishing operation (to be discussed under Agenda item 7)”, which required interpretation by the Panel of a provision of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#). It was agreed that the Panel should consider clarification of some provisions of [Rec. 22-08](#) to avoid similar situations in the future. It was therefore agreed to include a paragraph amending [Rec. 22-08](#) in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”.

The Panel discussed 11 documents in total, which includes the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, which was submitted by the Chair based on the discussions held during the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). Different documents were submitted to amend [Rec. 22-08](#). The EU submitted three documents: “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”; “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”; and “Proposal for amendments to ICCAT PA2_605/2024 – Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. Libya presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, and Japan presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08 on the monitoring of bluefin tuna farming”. Amendments were made to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” and it was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

The EU submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 23-08 for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea” to request a one-year extension, which was approved by the Panel, and it was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

As regards Mediterranean albacore, two documents were submitted: a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore” was submitted by the EU and a “Mediterranean albacore quota request” was submitted by Algeria and Tunisia. Following some amendments, the Panel approved the revised version of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore” for adoption in the Plenary.

Moreover, Panel 2 confirmed the repeal of several recommendations:

Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08); Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 22-05); Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea (Rec. 23-08); Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 23-06).

Norway submitted a “Report from the Norwegian pilot project for short term live storage of bluefin tuna in 2024”, which is an update on its ongoing project for short term live storage of bluefin tuna.

The Commission reviewed the proposals submitted by Panel 2 and adopted the following measures, which are contained in **ANNEX 4**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean;*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 23-08 for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea”;*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore.*

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8.2**.

Algeria indicated that it was unable to take the floor the previous day during the COC session and added that, in recent years, some CPCs have worked with Panel 2 and some CPCs have encouraged other CPCs to participate in the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme to lighten the burden on other CPCs. Algeria explained that, during the Mediterranean bluefin tuna season in 2024, it initiated a joint international inspection programme and that in July it had committed to participate further in this programme. Algeria also thanked the Secretariat for the collaboration provided during the preparation of this successful mission.

As regards the document “Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures” submitted by the Secretariat, the Chair of Panel 2 indicated that there were some issues that could be addressed during the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2. He added that the EU had submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore”, on items 4 and 5 relating to Mediterranean albacore. The Commission Chair indicated that the EU would address this matter and that the other Panel Chairs would deal with those related to their Panels. The EU indicated that it would try to incorporate these points in the new version of its document.

Panel 3

Mr Qayiso Kenneth Mketsu (South Africa) informed that the Panel had held two sessions and that there had been no change in membership.

As regards Agenda item 5, the SCRS Chair informed on the status of the South Atlantic albacore stock, which is in a very healthy state i.e. not overfished nor subject to overfishing. The SCRS analysis indicated that maintaining constant catches of 28,000 t would result in an 83% probability that the stock would remain in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot until 2023. For the 2022-2023 period, South Atlantic albacore catches remained below the TAC.

In addition, the SCRS Chair informed that management of southern bluefin tuna falls under the competence of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and provided a link to information on the status of the stock.

As regards the proposed work plan for southern Atlantic albacore, the SCRS supported the initiative to initiate the development of a Stock Synthesis model for the stock, which could be the basis for a future MSE. As to research activities, the SCRS reiterated the need to continue these activities within the framework of the Atlantic Albacore Tuna Year Programme (ALBYP), indicating that the priority for 2025 is to continue research activities on reproductive biology (including age determination). It was noted that the SCRS recommended continued funding of the ALBYP for both northern and southern Atlantic albacore stocks.

As regards the compliance tables, no discrepancies were noted and several CPCs reported their intention to carry over underharvests from the previous year, in accordance with the [Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023 to 2026 \(Rec. 22-06\)](#).

The Panel discussed a proposal submitted by South Africa: “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore”. Following several discussions, which included the change from a Recommendation to a Resolution and some modifications to the terminology used, the amended version of the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial operational management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore” was adopted by the Panel and referred to the Plenary for adoption. The document was adopted in the plenary sessions.

Based on the adoption of the above proposal, the Panel considered the “Draft South Albacore MSE Roadmap”, which after some modifications was adopted by the Panels and submitted to the Plenary for adoption, indicating that it is a dynamic document to be updated as appropriate. The document was adopted.

No measures for repeal were identified. It was agreed that the Report of Panel 3 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8.3**.

Panel 4

Mr Amar Ouchelli (Algeria), Chair of Panel 4, informed that the Panel had held four sessions and that Costa Rica had joined the Panel, bringing its membership to 43.

He presented the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#), held on 8 October 2024, which was adopted by the Panel. It also adopted the Interim Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT).

He also indicated that following a presentation on the situation of the management strategy for northern swordfish, a management procedure (MCCb11b) was adopted.

Four adopted documents were submitted to the Plenary:

- “Whale sharks and mobulid rays caught in association with ICCAT fisheries – Entry into force of ICCAT Recommendations 23-12 and 23-14”, submitted by the EU and the United Kingdom;
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish”, initially submitted by Canada, and subsequently sponsored by the EU, Morocco and the United States which had to be discussed in the plenary to incorporate the comments on the allocation table;
- “Proposed Roadmap for the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Blue Shark”, submitted by the EU; and
- Interim Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT).

In addition, two documents not adopted in Panel 4 were submitted to the Plenary:

- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”, sponsored by 43 Contracting Parties. This document was not adopted by the Panel, but the United States requested that it be submitted to the Plenary given the large number of country sponsors; and

- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish”, submitted by Egypt and Libya. This document was not adopted due to lack of time, but the CPCs concerned continued the discussions, and the new version was therefore submitted to the Plenary for discussion.

Following the presentation by the Chair of Panel 4, some changes to the adopted texts that had been requested by Panel 4 were presented.

Two proposals without any changes to be discussed were adopted: the “Proposed Roadmap for the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Blue Shark”, however Japan indicated that, while it did not oppose the adoption of the document, it is necessary to confirm with the SCRS whether it is feasible to implement MSE for two additional stocks, and that it is important to see the roadmap as a whole, rather than to consider single species; and the Interim Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) was also adopted.

As regards the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish”, it was noted that the figures in the allocation table needed to be reviewed. Canada explained the changes made, mainly to include a note under the table on Liberia which indicates that its inclusion in the allocation table for 2026-2027 would be evaluated at the 2025 annual meeting, subject to submission of a Fishing Plan for consideration by Panel 4. All CPCs intending to make transfers for 2025-2027 were included and the deadlines for submitting methodologies to estimate releases and dead discards were clarified, in accordance with ICCAT's reporting period. Finally, the last change was the addition of the EU, Morocco and the United States as co-sponsors. With these changes, the document was adopted.

As regards the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish”, the Chair of Panel 4 presented the changes made. Following further bilateral meetings, this new document was presented which does not include Egypt and Libya in the table, instead a footnote in this regard had been added. The document was adopted, and Egypt and Libya thanked the other CPCs involved.

One CPC (UK) made a general reflection on allocations and the discussions on the various species, as well as the need for new approaches. The Chair indicated that the difficulties are of a historical nature, as more developing countries now wish to enter the fisheries. A solution to this problem must therefore be found, otherwise there will be no end to the discussions, and this will lead to readjustment of fishing rights. It added that a case-by-case approach could be taken, as is currently the case, or a more horizontal approach could be adopted, taking into account current developments in international law. Another CPC (Japan) indicated that it does not support efforts to develop generic rules for all species, based on the experiences in other RFMOs.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation and management of sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” was submitted by the EU and called for SCRS advice on appropriate management measures for basking shark and great white shark. The measure was not adopted. The UK lamented that there was no more time to further discuss the measure. It considered that the request was an important one and called on the Commission to request review in 2025 by the SCRS of the existing data and information on life cycle and conservation status of basking shark and great white shark as well as confirmation as to whether they meet the definition of species of high biological vulnerability and conservation concern, for which little data are available; if so, the SCRS should advise on appropriate measures for a precautionary management approach.

As regards the “Proposed Roadmap for the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Blue Shark”, the Chair of Panel 4 explained that this did not involve modifications but consulting the SCRS to see if work could be initiated on the MSE for blue shark, in addition to the other ongoing MSE processes. Japan explained that it supported the blue shark MSE proposal, but that the Plenary should see the complete roadmap, with the other species included.

As to “Whale sharks and mobulid rays caught in association with ICCAT fisheries – Entry into force of ICCAT Recommendations 23-12 and 23-14”, the United Kingdom explained that this document is a discussion paper that is a follow-up to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 23-14)*, which was adopted last year. Japan had noted inconsistencies in the mobulid species listed therein with respect to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on fishes considered to be tuna and tuna-like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs (Rec. 19-01)*, which indicates the species covered by the amended Convention. The text of Rec. 23-14 has been corrected to remove any doubt about the species listed therein. The document was adopted.

The Chair of Panel 4 enquired as to whether the “Proposed Roadmap for the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Blue Shark” was adopted and its adoption was confirmed. It was also confirmed that the “Draft South Albacore MSE Roadmap”, also on MSE, was adopted.

Belize called for a vote on the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”. Japan objected to the vote and asked about the legal basis for a vote for bycatch species. Japan indicated that ICCAT has no legal mandate on bycatch species, such as sharks, under the current Convention, and thus can adopt a management measure by consensus only. Japan further indicated that if Belize wishes to request a vote, then it must indicate the legal basis for it. China (P.R.) expressed its support for Japan on this issue. The Chair noted his view that the way to provide ICCAT with a clear legal basis to address these issues is to ratify the Palma de Mallorca Protocol and urged Parties to do so in order to remove any potential legal obstacles.

As regards the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”, the Chair turned to the body and again asked the Plenary for consensus. Japan indicated that it does not agree with this proposal, noting that it was not willing to discuss this proposal this year but that next year it would. Japan explained that it has no problem with this measure for fresh sharks as all fresh sharks, especially blue shark, are landed with their fins naturally attached to the body in Japan. It proposed this measure for fresh sharks in the past Panel 4 meeting, but the proposal was not adopted by Panel 4. Japan noted the problem is with frozen products, given the limited space on freezer vessels and the different destinations of these products. In the case of frozen products, if this recommendation is adopted, fins cannot be separated from the body, which poses a practical problem. Japan indicated that some CPCs consider that this measure would improve scientific data, but since most CPCs support the measure and must have implemented it, according to Japan it is questionable what this measure would change. Japan pointed out that while some CPCs raise the existence of finning as a reason for this measure, no evidence has been provided to the Compliance Committee. Japan also noted that since the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is considering a similar and alternative measure on this issue and would make a decision next month, Japan would need to see what happens in the WCPFC. While some CPCs have pointed out that the WCPFC is not ICCAT, Japan’s vessels operate in all oceans and Japan cannot ignore management measures in other oceans as a member country of all the tuna RFMOs. Japan also indicated that it was intending to propose a measure last year but did not do so because it found out that the WCPFC is reviewing the existing measures related to the fins naturally attached to the body measure. Japan considered therefore that it was advisable to wait and see what alternative measures are proposed at the WCPFC. Japan suggested that it is not logical for Japan to submit measures based on those of the WCPFC, if these are then changed. Finally, Japan reasserted that it cannot discuss this proposal this year, but is willing to consider it next year. It urged CPCs to wait, given that it would submit next year a proposal on naturally attached fins or alternative measures, based on the measures to be adopted by the WCPFC. It emphasized that for the first time in sixteen years, there has been a change in the position of Japan, and it reiterated its request to wait one year. China (P.R.) expressed its support for Japan.

One CPC (Guatemala) explained the system implemented in Central America, including the regulation against finning, indicating that target and associated species must be considered. It noted that ICCAT must manage these species and that if ICCAT does not, others will, noting that the language of the measure may need improvement, but that another sixteen years cannot go by.

The Chair gave an overview of the situation, indicating that although Japan and China (P.R.) clearly indicated that they would not support it this year, there is a significant change in attitude. Furthermore, he signalled that it was an important issue and that another sixteen years cannot go by. The Chair opined that if it is seen that ICCAT is not able to address this, someone else will do it for it and in a less pleasant way for the fishing industry. Moreover, he explained that the EU industry takes pride in implementing a fins naturally attached policy. He indicated that sooner or later ICCAT must adopt this measure and that it is better to do so sooner rather than later. He indicated that, as two CPCs had explained that they could not accept the measure this year, it could be considered not to be adopted. However, he requested that it be put on record the important change in attitude of those CPCs i.e. their intention to work in this regard and to submit proposals next year so as to advance on this important issue. He indicated that he hoped that 2025 could be not only the year of bluefin tuna, but also that of no shark finning too. He signalled that if other paths were taken, the legal bases would not be clear, which would not be a good idea. He added that the best way to establish a legal basis is by ratifying the Protocol.

One CPC (Guatemala) indicated that it intended to call for a vote, but that now is the time to join forces and not to create problems given the mandate to regulate sharks, using best efforts to manage and protect them. He noted that other RFMOs have adopted this measure and that it would be a discredit to ICCAT if it did not. He again noted that the best way to achieve this is to ratify the Protocol in order to have a legal basis. The Chair again asked that the record show that although it has not been possible this year to adopt the measure by consensus, China (P.R.) and Japan are committed to moving forward on this issue and next year proposals will be submitted and discussed and perhaps adopted by consensus.

Belize noted that it is necessary to work together to achieve consensus once and for all, offering its assistance in doing so, and asked that the record reflect Belize's great disappointment that the measure could not be adopted this year by consensus. The Chair requested that the record also reflect the great disappointment of many CPCs that this proposal has not been accepted by consensus.

The EU offered to share its experience on this issue, noting that it has been implementing this measure for ten years now, and also invited Japan and China (Rep.) to share their experience in order to reach consensus next year.

The Shark Trust, also on behalf of DSM, EAC, GTA, ISSF, Manta Trust, Pew, Sciaena, and The Ocean Foundation, indicated its commitment to ending shark finning and to landing sharks with their fins naturally attached to their bodies. It expressed great disappointment that, despite the support of over 80% of CPCs, the measure had been blocked, but also its delight at the strong support for the measure. For 20 years, one of the most vulnerable Atlantic species has not been protected. It thanked the countries that had tabled this initiative and maintained it for so many years. It also thanked the countries that have participated in its side events to share the practical advantages of implementing this measure for small and large-scale fisheries, as well as the leaders of Central America and West Africa for expanding the use of these methods, as well as other co-sponsoring CPCs for their efforts to reinforce the finning ban. It urged these CPCs to continue to implement the practice of not finning sharks through their domestic regulations by including it as a condition of landing for foreign vessels as well.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8.4**.

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

The COC Chair, Mr Derek Campbell (United States), informed the Commission that the Report of the Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) would be limited to items requiring adoption in Plenary.

It was proposed to renew the status of all current Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname. This proposal was approved by the Commission.

As regards non-Contracting, non-Cooperating Parties, the Compliance Committee recommended that letters be sent to those that catch more than a de minimis amount in ICCAT fisheries (1% or more of the TAC for a given species) or are exporting and importing ICCAT species, so that they submit more information or participate in meetings. This proposal was approved by the Commission.

The COC Chair indicated that the Compliance Committee had approved transmittal of letters on compliance and identification issues, as recommended in the document “Compliance actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with Friends of COC Chair Group” which is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**. The Commission approved the transmittal of letters.

Moreover, the COC Chair indicated that the Compliance Committee had approved the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” and congratulated the Secretariat for the work accomplished. These tables were also adopted by the Commission and are contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

The Compliance Committee had also approved the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)”, clarifying the IOMS requirements. The Commission adopted the recommendation, which is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

Moreover, the Compliance Committee recommended approval of the compliance-related capacity building missions in Senegal and Angola in 2025 and 2026, respectively. The Commission approved these capacity building missions.

In addition, the Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission request that the SCRS develop a procedure for CPCs to request confirmation from the SCRS that the vessels flying their flag are unlikely to catch the sharks covered by the recommendation, noting that until now, one of the impediments to do this was that it had not been requested by the Commission. The Commission approved the proposal.

Furthermore, consistent with the “Information paper: Translation of Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) data and documents”, the Committee supported further collaboration between the Secretariat, STACFAD and the Compliance Committee to explore the possibility of gradually translating more elements of the information communicated through the IOMS, which was adopted by the Commission.

16. 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 the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), Mr Neil Ansell (EU), informed that the Group had developed its work over four sessions.

As regards the catch documentation and statistical document programs, the Group adopted the [Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\)](#) and the [Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\)](#) and endorsed the continuation of the Group's work in 2025, as well as the adoption of a new workplan. It also encouraged continuation of the technical work on the development and coordination of the eBCD programme. In addition, a proposal was agreed for the development of a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-16 amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system”, presented by the EU, together with a request to the CDS WG to develop the associated functionality. Finally, agreement was reached on the proposal for a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on aquaculture bluefin tuna”, also submitted by the EU.

As regards the observer programmes and electronic monitoring systems (EMS), the Group adopted the [Report of the Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group \(EMS WG\)](#) and supported that the Group's work continues in 2025, as well as the workplan ("Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS) Possible priorities, implementation strategies and tentative workplan"). The Group was informed of several pilot projects, including the project on processing vessels and the project on stereoscopic cameras (SC) and artificial intelligence (AI). The Group also approved a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in CPC observer programs", presented by the United States, the United Kingdom, Morocco, Senegal and Gabon. In addition, the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean - Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)" submitted by the EU, was discussed but no consensus was reached.

As regards in-port and at-sea transshipment arrangements, agreement was reached on the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-15 on transshipment", submitted by the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

As to the port inspection programmes and port State measures, a discussion was held on strengthening of port State measures and a possible intersessional review in 2025 of the current ICCAT measure, including the functioning of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG). The [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance \(PIEG\)](#) was adopted.

With regard to the responsibilities of the flag State and following the presentation of a "Discussion paper on driftnets", submitted by the EU, on the description of the current legislation as well as the description of scientific and monitoring and control considerations, it was agreed to continue discussing this issue intersessionally in 2025. The "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Marine Pollution from Fishing Activities" was presented by Canada was also discussed, but no consensus was reached.

As to review and establishment of the list of IUU vessels and associated measures, the Group agreed to inclusion of the vessel in the ICCAT IUU list in accordance with the cross-listing provided for in [Rec. 23-16](#), as indicated in the "Recommendation 23-16: Draft 2024 List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities", which was also adopted.

In addition, the Group adopted the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#). The Secretariat also raised a number of points to be explained, which were clarified and included in the document "Clarifications requested on PWG matters and responses from CPCs".

Finally, based on a document submitted by Libya, "Request for action on a case for Libya's joint fishing operation (PA2_610/2024) - Follow-up", the Group agreed that the Secretariat and the consortium that implements the eBCD would work collaboratively to make the necessary adjustments to the eBCD system regarding the relevant 2024 joint fishing operations.

17. Streamlining of conservation and management measures

The Secretariat presented the document "Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures" indicating that the Chair of Panel 2 had already presented some information included in the document regarding measures that have been repealed by others that have entered into force this year.

In addition, the Secretariat made some suggestions to streamline the extensive list of Recommendations, between which conflicts sometimes arise. For some recommendations, the Secretariat has made suggestions regarding the submission of data so that the Panel Chairs can deal with them individually in their respective Panels.

One CPC thanked the Secretariat for the huge amount of work involved in reviewing all the Recommendations and providing useful suggestions and indicated that it supported all the information included in page 1 of the document.

Three NGOs indicated that sharks should be a priority as they are at risk of disappearing as they are a target species, bycaught, do not have an MSE and there is little or no data reporting. They noted that since nothing has been done in the past, a precautionary approach has to be adopted and it must be ensured that these species are not overlooked.

The Secretariat then presented a revised version of the document “Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures”, which included changes provided by the United States and was adopted.

The United Kingdom indicated that it would continue to work to unify the various seabird recommendations.

18. Intersessional meetings in 2025

The Commission reviewed the “Tentative schedule for 2025 meetings”. It agreed that, although the final dates would have to be decided by correspondence, the following meetings will be held in 2025, which are reflected in a revised version of the document:

- Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)
- Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)
- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2
- Second Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)
- Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (EMS WG)
- Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)
- 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM)
- Meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)

The Commission agreed that the SCRS should carry out stock assessments for the shortfin mako, white marlin and bigeye tuna stocks. In addition, the following scientific meetings will be held:

- Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)
- Shortfin Mako Shark Data Preparatory Meeting
- White Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting
- Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group
- Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting
- Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch
- Shortfin Mako Shark Stock Assessment Meeting
- Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group
- White Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting
- SCRS Science Strategic Plan Meeting
- Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting

19. Other matters

The Chair again indicated how important it is to ratify the Palma de Mallorca Protocol, urging all CPCs that had not ratified it to do so as soon as possible.

20. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The ICCAT Executive Secretary indicated that Côte d'Ivoire, which had offered to host the annual meeting, would not unfortunately be able to do so due to the presidential elections. The Executive Secretary indicated that there were no other offers at that time, and that the Secretariat was open to receiving them within the time frame necessary to organize a meeting of this nature.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the proposed dates for the meeting were 17-24 November 2025, and one CPC indicated that possibly more days could be added considering the extremely tight agenda. Other CPCs disagreed with such an extension and the Chair indicated that less time would increase efficiency and that lengthening the discussions on the various issues would only extend them.

The Hon. Mr Patrice Trovoada, Prime Minister of São Tomé e Príncipe also delivered a speech which is contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

21. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked all the participants at the meeting for the spirit of collaboration shown, the EU, Cyprus and the people of Cyprus. He also thanked the interpreters for their flexibility and the Secretariat for their hard work.

The Commission agreed to adopt the report by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda, meeting arrangements and appointment of Rapporteur
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 reports of the 2024 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Final review of follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of the need for future Performance Review
8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
9. Cooperation with and updates relating to other organisations
 - 9.1 Cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)
 - 9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2
10. Discussion on Implementation of Biodiversity Instruments
11. Reports of the two intersessional meetings of the Joint Experts Group on Climate Change (JEG-CC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)
13. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
16. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
17. Streamlining of conservation and management measures
18. Intersessional meetings in 2025
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 and statements to the plenary sessions

3.1 Opening addresses

Mr Ernesto Penas Lado, Commission Chair

Let me first of all thank Cyprus and the EU for hosting this meeting in Limassol.

Since we are in a Greek-speaking land, let me start with a reference to the ancient Greek philosophers. The axiom, attributed to Aristotle, in response to Democritus theory of atomism, that “Nature abhors a vacuum” is my guiding principle in this year’s annual meeting. But what does this axiom have to do with ICCAT?

Over the years ICCAT has been very successful in bringing about good management of tuna fisheries. Let us make no mistake: ICCAT is one of the most successful RFMOs in the world. However, we all know that we still have much to achieve and, in particular, we have a number of challenges that, in recent years, we have not been able to meet. We all know about tropical tunas, as the most important case. This is core business for us. We simply cannot fail here. Even if the news from the SCRS is not bad, it would be a big mistake to believe that we have plenty of time to resolve this issue. We have reached the stage where a less than perfect agreement for the next three years is better than no agreement. If we do not do it this year, we may be inviting other organizations to do the job for us.

But there are other important issues still outstanding. For example, the number of NGOs dealing with sharks among our observers demonstrates the relevance of everything that touches upon these iconic species. Here, despite excellent advances in managing key commercial species, such as blue shark, we have much to advance in other areas like shark finning, where we have not been able to agree on common measures. Another example is our inability to establish an efficient and fair control and inspection scheme, an instrument that other RFMOs already have in place that provides further credibility to the management system.

All these questions have something in common: if we fail to agree on meaningful measures, we will be creating a void. And, following Aristotle’s axiom, this void will be sooner or later filled by somebody else. And this will be so in conditions far less friendly to the legitimate fishing activity of our CPCs. That means that we have to resolve these issues not only because it is our responsibility and obligation, but also because if we do not do it, others will do it in our place. Our failures will not remain forever a simple void.

Furthermore, new challenges are also coming up that will require our initiative and action, and where, I strongly believe, we will have to occupy the ground if we do not want others to do it for us, again in far less fisheries-friendly conditions. We all know that international actions on global warming are gathering momentum everywhere. Whatever is done for fisheries and global warming, who do we want to decide it? Do we want to be an active part in that discussion or are we happy to leave an empty ground so that others will decide for us?

That is the case, even more so, for the international initiatives on biodiversity. The two new instruments: the so-called BBNJ and the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, both set ambitious objectives to protect marine biodiversity by 2030, notably by establishing, as a primary instrument, large scale Marine Protected Areas. The question is, again, who will decide on these areas? And on the conditions applicable therein? Who will be consulted? And are marine protected areas the right instrument for pelagic, oceanic ecosystems? Who will have the capacity and will participate actively in shaping future measures in that context?

Institutional issues are also very important in our organisation. In my third year as Chair, I note that we have not made progress in improving the decision-making process. We know that, all too often, decisions are taken at the last minute, and that the supposedly small delegations feel somewhat sidelined in this process. In order to preserve the multilateral nature of our organisation, which is the keystone of its success, we need to ensure effective inclusion of all delegations in decision-making and in our working methods. Of course, we must always strike a fair balance between efficiency and inclusion. But we cannot sacrifice the latter for the former.

This year, STACFAD will be putting forward a number of ideas concerning the election of officers. Ideas such as requesting that candidate nominations to be submitted before the annual meeting, or the appointment of vice chairs. This seems to me to be very important. Although decisions on these matters will be taken at the 2025 Annual Meeting, it is important to ensure that at that meeting these decisions do not entail long and difficult discussions, as was the case in 2021. We must devote our time, which is always limited, to discussing substantive issues.

The success of our organisation also depends on its stability. For this reason, issues relating to staff pensions and the Madrid headquarters are essential to ensure the continuity of our work. It is essential to find solutions to the current challenges; an organisation without this stability will not be able to provide us with the quality of work we have benefitted from since its establishment.

I would like to recall that the greatest difficulty that we have in adopting measures is the eternal question of the allocation of fishing rights. Without a good allocation key for these rights, there can be no proper management. We know this well from the case of tropical tunas. We know from experience that this is a delicate and difficult issue, which is never fully resolved. And there are understandable reasons for this: in particular, the aspirations of developing countries to obtain a greater share of the resources, in order to strengthen their own domestic fishing industry, are legitimate and understandable. They cannot be told no indefinitely. And, in the face of this, the aspirations of developed countries to secure the traditional activity of their sectors are also understandable. But the two are difficult to reconcile, especially if the aim of the request to increase or preserve these quotas is not to fish these quotas, but to trade them, because this can distort the real allocation of rights. For certain stocks, we already ensure transparency regarding the use of quotas, whether to fish them or to transfer them. Should we not do the same for tropical tunas? And beyond tropical tunas, the question of fishing rights is so essential to our work that perhaps we should reflect on whether we want to continue to deal with this issue on a case-by-case basis, or have a substantial discussion on the principles that must govern this allocation in a changing world.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of being proactive in global debates which, whether we like it or not, are going to have a major impact on our fisheries. I am referring to climate change and the new instruments on protection of biodiversity. In both cases, Aristotle's axiom is apt. Governments and other actors are developing plans, ideas and proposals on how to implement the new conventions by 2030. Let us recall in particular that the new conventions on biodiversity identify the establishment of large marine protected areas as the essential instrument. But this instrument, I dare say, is probably not very effective in the case of oceanic pelagic ecosystems and migratory species. In this case, other instruments may be more appropriate. And this is where ICCAT should intervene proactively. Because, if we do not do it ourselves, we will leave a vacuum that others will no doubt be willing to fill.

And without further ado, I take this opportunity to wish you all a productive and successful meeting.

Gracias, Merci, Thank you, efjaristó poli

Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Honourable Dr Maria Panayiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus,
Honourable Ministers present,
Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Director General of DG-MARE,
Mr Yiannis Armeftis, Mayor of Limassol,
Ms. Eliana Tofa-Christidou, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Directorate-General for the Environment of Cyprus,
Ms Marina Argyrou, Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of Cyprus,
ICCAT Chair,
ICCAT Vice Chairs,
Commission Officers,
Delegates,
Interpreters,
Ladies and gentlemen
Dear colleagues,
Present or participating online
Duly respecting your ranks and capacities,

Once again, it is my pleasure to take the floor to say a few words at the start of this 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, and to wish you a warm welcome to Limassol, this beautiful city of Cyprus.

First of all, I would like to warmly thank the authorities of the Government of Cyprus and the European Union for the excellent welcome, organisation and co-financing of this meeting.

Next, allow me to express my pious thoughts for the repose of the souls of those who have contributed much to ICCAT and who have departed from this world. I am thinking in particular of Mr Abdou Got DIOUF of Senegal, who was the Chair of the ICCAT Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fisheries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to pay tribute to the invaluable support provided throughout the intersessional period by all the ICCAT Officers, CPCs and partners, which has enabled the Secretariat to make very significant progress. My special thanks and congratulations go to all the Secretariat staff. I would also like to pay tribute to an icon of the Secretariat, Ms Jenny Elisabeth Cheatle, who retired last September after 30 very remarkable years with ICCAT. In the same vein, I would also like to note the retirement, also after 30 years, of another ICCAT icon, Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker from the United States, whom I thank very much.

Dear colleagues

Without groaning or glossing over the many challenges facing the Commission, but more than determined to continue its tireless efforts to fully and satisfactorily meet its commitment to the Commission and all its subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat reiterates the call it has made over the past few years for a solution to the equation of matching its resources to the Commission's orders, with particular reference to the number of meetings. In addition, this year the Secretariat has submitted two concerns related to its pension plan and uncertainties regarding its headquarters in Madrid. The Commission's assistance is sought in this regard.

Finally, dear Delegates, I will continue to further involve the Secretariat, and reiterate its total commitment and availability, for an ever better contribution.

I wish you every success and thank you for your kind attention.

Efkharisto!

Dr Maria Panayiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus

Dear Chair of ICCAT, Mr Peñas Lado,
 Executive Secretary Mr Manel,
 Director-General of DG MARE Ms. Vitcheva,
 Members of European Parliament,
 Members of Cyprus' Parliament,
 Ministers,
 Distinguished guests,
 Esteemed delegates,
 Ladies, and gentlemen,

It is a profound honor and privilege to welcome you to Cyprus, our beautiful island, for the 24th Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), hosted here in Limassol from November 11th to November 18th. This gathering stands as a testament to our shared commitment to sustainably manage tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and other adjacent seas.

First and foremost, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat and to all member nations for placing your trust in Cyprus to host this significant event. It is an honor for our country to serve as the host of this gathering. With its deep maritime heritage and profound connection to the sea, Cyprus offers not only a beautiful landscape setting, but a meaningful one - symbolizing our shared commitment to the sustainable future of our oceans. Here, at the intersection of three continents - Europe, Asia, and Africa - and a longstanding maritime heritage, we are reminded that the conversations we engage in today will shape the future for generations that follow.

Aligned with the European Union's priorities, we remain committed to promoting sustainable, science-based fisheries management. Throughout the ICCAT and EU framework, we have pursued an evidence-driven approach, establishing well-founded quotas and policies guided by scientific assessments. A notable success is the bluefin tuna management plan, where quotas were set based on comprehensive information on migration and reproduction data. This approach safeguards ecological sustainability while supporting the economic well-being of our communities.

As a coastal nation, Cyprus shares a deep commitment to marine conservation. The large pelagic fisheries, such as those targeting tuna and swordfish, hold great value for our economy and culture, supporting local communities and contribute significantly to our domestic and export product. However, these fisheries extend beyond economic considerations and are deeply embedded in our maritime traditions, representing a cultural legacy and environmental duty. As stewards of these valuable resources, we remain committed to ensuring their sustainability.

ICCAT's conservation framework has proven essential in balancing responsible and sustainable fishing and management practices with the protection of marine biodiversity. Cyprus is dedicated to preserving a delicate balance between sustainable fishing and marine conservation, and pledges its unwavering support to ICCAT in safeguarding the longevity of these resources, preserving both our marine environment and the livelihoods dependent on it.

The challenges our marine ecosystems face, are complex and interconnected, demanding collaborative efforts and innovative solutions. This year's decisions will shape the direction of conservation efforts and the sustainable use of marine resources for years to come. This will help build on the substantial work and dedicated efforts made by the European Commission to date. Cyprus acknowledges the importance of setting balanced and equitable fishing limits, backed by tuna management framework plans, reflecting regional needs and the scientific advice. This responsibility is one we all share - a commitment that transcends borders and political differences.

Moreover, in alignment with EU efforts, we encourage the advance in measures to minimise bycatch and reduce mortality of vulnerable species like shark species and marine turtles. We support proposals to implement best practices that minimize these unintended incidents, placing a strong emphasis on conservation efforts.

Furthermore, Cyprus remains at the forefront in the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, and urge to take strict control and compliance mechanisms across the ICCAT conservation area. Through rigorous monitoring, we can better safeguard our tuna resources and ensure fairness for our fishers who operate responsibly.

Cyprus, with its unique geographical position at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, understands the importance of international cooperation in addressing global environmental challenges. The Mediterranean Sea, which borders our shores, illustrates broader oceanic challenges, underscoring that our actions - or inaction - have profound consequences for marine ecosystems.

As we gather here in Cyprus, let us be inspired by a vision of a thriving future for our oceans, sustaining and supporting the livelihoods of present and future generations. Working together, we can achieve a balanced approach to conservation and sustainable resource use, ensuring the well-being of marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

Finally, as a symbol of our collective commitment, we are pleased to share a specially created logo for this year's ICCAT meeting, encapsulated in a video animation we would like to present. May it serve as a testament to our collective commitment to collaboration and marine sustainability.

Thank you, and may this ICCAT meeting mark another milestone towards sustainable ocean stewardship.

Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

Honourable Minister,
Chairperson,
Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed colleagues,

It is an utmost pleasure for me to be here today to address you. It is an honour that this 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT is taking place in the European Union and we are very delighted to host you all here.

I would like to thank Minister Panayiotou, and all the Cypriot authorities for the warm welcome and for the wonderful job they are doing with regards to the organisation of this very important meeting. I would also like to thank Ernesto Penas Lado, the Commission Chair, who has set an ambitious agenda and will direct the fruitful discussion you will have during the meeting. Of course, my thanks also go to the ICCAT Executive Secretary Mr Manel, and the ICCAT Secretariat who, as always, put in a huge effort to ensure that everything is running smoothly and that we are on track for positive results.

The topics that you discuss over the course of the next week are of key importance. Not only for the stocks, of course, but also to the fisheries, and not least for those communities that depend on this vital resource. It is important therefore that we get this right.

The European Union is committed to sustainably managing marine fisheries and tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Atlantic. ICCAT provides a vital platform for cooperation, collaboration, and coordination among Contracting Parties. For many years, the European Union has been advocating in RFMOs for measures that promote the long-term health and resilience of marine ecosystems, while also ensuring a level-playing field and the socio-economic sustainability of fisheries. At the core of this effort for sustainability, scientific evidence and the best scientific advice remain at the forefront of the ICCAT decision-making processes.

We don't have to look too far back into the past, to a point in time where the iconic bluefin tuna was in dire straits. The decisions made in ICCAT, some of them very tough, in particular for our EU fleets, have brought us to a place where the stock is once again thriving. With the example of bluefin tuna, we can very concretely see that the decisions we take here in ICCAT matter. They make a difference.

You have very important decisions to make this week: on tropical tunas, on North Atlantic swordfish, on sharks, to name but a few. I call on your collective expertise, your collaboration and your decision-making capabilities to make strides forward for these species. In particular for tropical tunas, I truly hope that there is a willingness in the room to move these negotiations forward, in particular having regard to the most recent scientific advice.

Moreover, the European Union is encouraged by the fantastic work being done in ICCAT on the management strategy evaluation processes (MSEs). With progress being made on the ambitious and unprecedented tropical tunas MSE, ICCAT will be a leading light for many RFMOs as this work continues.

ICCAT is also leading by example on cutting edge-technological solutions such as electronic monitoring systems (EMS) and artificial intelligence for better compliance. I am happy to state that the EU is at the forefront of this technology, and we will be happy to share our experiences with you over the coming days.

Which brings me to the issue of compliance. I would like to recall that we are a management and conservation organisation. And as we all know, in order to ensure good management, we need to ensure that the rules are complied with. In that context I would urge you all to strongly engage with the compliance discussions. Through this open dialogue, and adherence to the rules, we can ensure a level-playing field for all – which is critical for the continued success and functioning of ICCAT.

Finally, in times when we are all asked to be doing more with less, I would call on all parties to consider how we can learn from each other's best practices in terms of reducing administrative and financial burden. It is never an easy discussion, but it is one which reflects the global reality and the tough decisions that each one of us are having to make domestically.

I wish you a fruitful meeting. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Mr Yiannis Armeftis, Mayor of Limassol

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for the city of Limassol to welcome the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Annual Meeting here in Cyprus.

Hosting such a prestigious gathering highlights the importance of Limassol and our commitment to responsible and sustainable fisheries.

We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to contribute to ICCAT's vital work and facilitate the collaboration and shared mission of conserving the ocean's resources for future generations.

The tuna and swordfish industries are not only essential to our economy but also to the cultural and environmental heritage of Cyprus. Our waters have supported coastal communities for centuries, and today, they continue to provide livelihoods to countless families who depend on the sea. Cyprus is proud to be a part of the Mediterranean region, a key area for pelagic fisheries, and a place where sustainable practices are needed now more than ever to ensure a thriving and biodiverse marine ecosystem.

Environmental responsibility and the preservation of clean, healthy seas are central to our vision. As a coastal city, Limassol understands the urgency of these issues.

We know that our commitment to conservation and responsible fisheries management must be unwavering if we are to secure a future in which species can flourish.

This responsibility calls us to join you in taking action against overfishing, supporting balanced quotas, and promoting best practices for ocean conservation.

Today, we pledge to work closely with all the relevant agencies and stakeholders to ensure that Limassol is a trusted partner in advancing ICCAT's mission.

Our municipality is dedicated to fostering strong collaboration with national and international bodies, environmental organizations, and the fishing community.

Together, we can implement effective strategies and take decisions that balance the needs of our economy with the imperative to protect our seas.

We are committed to a sustainable future, and it is our hope that this gathering will lay the groundwork for stronger cooperation, impactful policies, and the preservation of our marine ecosystems for generations to come.

Thank you for entrusting us with this significant gathering, and welcome to Limassol.

Hon. Mr Patrice Trovoada, Prime Minister of São Tomé e Príncipe

Commission Chair, Executive Secretary,
 Head Delegates,
 Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies,
 All protocol respected,

It is a great pleasure for me to stand before you today, and I would like to express our deep gratitude for the welcome extended to me and the opportunity to speak at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission.

I would also like to congratulate the ICCAT Secretariat for its wise leadership and diligent work, and express our sincere appreciation to our long-standing partners - the European Union, Spain's cooperation, the government of Japan, to name but a few of those present.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Although geographically small and somewhat isolated, São Tomé e Príncipe holds a number of advantages, marked by the political stability of a democratic system, a strategic position in the Gulf of Guinea, a high level of schooling among its population, almost full coverage of the electricity network, and a high degree of receptiveness to investment.

Our remarkable fishing area in our exclusive economic zone, a region where the warm Guinea current and the cold South Benguela current cross, is exceptionally rich in marine resources. These resources are not just potential, they hold the promise of a vital future for our country.

We are currently capable of producing annually 17,000 t of large pelagics, 4,000 t of coastal pelagics, 6,000 t of various seafoods and between 60,000 and 100,000 t of oceanic pelagics, according to studies by Oceanic Development and the FAO. Yet despite this promising capacity, São Tomé and Príncipe does not have an industrial fishing fleet nor, at present, the financial means to acquire one.

We have taken bold steps to strengthen our fisheries sector. We have modernised our legal framework with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law, created favourable regulations and laid the foundations for marine culture.

We are a reformist government that listens to the industry, practitioners and the market, but are also concerned with sound and intelligent resource management.

Our desire to create a sustainable and welcoming environment for investment in the fisheries sector goes hand in hand with a desire to preserve and protect our oceans by drawing on scientific research, technical and trade data, and by cooperating closely with multilateral organisations capable of harmonising different expectations and interests.

Migratory marine species are making us even more aware of the need for the various players in the fishing industry to work together on a win-win basis.

São Tomé and Príncipe has been a member of ICCAT since 1983, participating actively in Panel 1 on tropical tunas and Panel 4 on swordfish. Although we have not yet fully benefited from our membership - due to the lack of a national fleet and the challenges associated with maintaining a consistent catch register - our commitment to this Commission is resolute.

Chair, Executive Secretary, ladies and gentlemen

As Prime Minister and Head of Government, I assure you that we will continue to comply with and uphold ICCAT Recommendations as we strive to better position our country within the global fishing industry.

Illegal and unregulated fishing, overfishing, changes in ecosystems, collection and sharing of scientific data, conservation measures, transparency, maritime safety and the fight against corruption are all areas in which you can count on our commitment.

By listening carefully to the industry, we are working actively to establish fishing agreements, to study the chartering of vessels to use our quotas, to create infrastructures and support services for the fishing fleets and to look for options and business models that will gradually enable us to play a role in the sector based on our comparative advantages and therefore increase the dividends for our populations, which can be extended to the entire global fishing community.

Africa's geographical role on the Atlantic cannot be ignored, nor can its demographic role - by 2050, a quarter of the world's population will be African. For this reason, training and capacity-building for fisheries observers and managers is urgently needed to ensure sustainable conservation of fishery resources. At the same time, a realistic discourse based on data and science must be capable of building an action plan that harmonises economic, social, environmental and food security constraints.

We are counting on ICCAT for all this, and I hope that the outcome of your work will be as harmonious and fair as possible.

Thank you for your attention.

3.2 Statements by Contracting Parties

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Cyprus as well as the European Union for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Limassol. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission.

In recent years, the Commission has been tackling a very difficult negotiation regarding the management measures for tropical tunas, particularly bigeye tuna. While the TAC could be increased following the last stock assessment in 2021, the introduction of management schemes to keep the total catch below the TAC remains urgent. Such schemes should include an approach for addressing the growing aspirations of developing CPCs. The possible increase of the TAC can contribute to developing such an approach. Furthermore, to further increase the TAC for accommodating the interests of developing CPCs, it is essential to reduce the catch of juvenile fish, as reduction of juvenile mortality will increase the MSY and raise the potential TAC. This can be achieved through stronger management of FADs, such as the FADs closure, the limit on the number of FADs and the maximum number of FADs set. It is also worth noting that, while the yellowfin stock was assessed as green this year, the catch has been above the TAC continuously. A mechanism to constrain the catch at the optimum level is crucial. According to the SCRS, the FADs closure could help reduce the yellowfin catch.

There is one thing Japan would like to stress as to catch limits. Some CPCs consider that the catch limit of Japan should and could be reduced based on the past catch record. While it is true that Japan did not fully utilize its catch limit for several years mainly due to the impacts of COVID-19, Japan's catch has recovered after the pandemic, and our initial catch limit was fully utilized last year. In addition, when Japan did not fully utilize its catch limit, the bigeye stock status was in a bad shape. Japan believes that under-utilization of the catch limit when the stock is overfished should be appreciated, not penalized. On the other hand, now that the bigeye stock status is recovering and a certain TAC increase is possible, under-utilization does not make such contribution and CPCs with fishing capacity should be given opportunities to utilize such underutilized allocation. In this regard, Japan proposes that if a CPC does not fully utilize the catch limit in the future, such CPC shall give up part of the catch limit. The catch limits obtained through such mechanisms can also help develop fisheries in developing countries.

With regard to bluefin tuna farming, Japan has been expressing concern for several years that the growth rates observed in eBCDs are sometimes too high. Although Japan appreciates active cooperation from farming CPCs on this issue, including the exchange of farming information, we believe that, to address such concern, more work should and could be done, such as strengthening the stereo video camera monitoring of all fish being caged, ensuring unbiased video footage analysis using AI, setting a benchmark for growth rate monitoring, and reviewing the SCRS growth rate tables.

With regard to the ICCAT operations in general, it is pleasing that ICCAT has resumed its active work and discussions after the pandemic. However, the increasing workload is placing an unsustainable burden on the Commission, the SCRS, and the managers and scientists in each CPC. The SCRS was very efficient in its work this year, but even so, the meeting was very long, and some items were not fully discussed. The increase in the budget is also a serious issue. Japan very much welcomes the discussions on streamlining ICCAT requirements and reducing costs for ICCAT activities.

Last but not least, Japan strongly encourages other CPCs to expedite their respective internal acceptance procedures for the Palma de Mallorca Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention so that this Protocol will enter into force as soon as possible. Gladly, two CPCs have deposited their instrument of ratification since the last Annual Meeting. However, the Protocol still needs the approval of nearly 30 CPCs to come into force.

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

Panama

It is an honour for the delegation of the Republic of Panama to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the European Union as hosts of this 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT. We find ourselves in a setting that fosters constructive dialogue and collaboration, which are essential elements to advance on our shared mission. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Commission Secretariat, whose commitment has been essential to the success of our meetings.

Panama would like to refer to and recall the request made by several CPCs during the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission held in Egypt regarding interpretation at ICCAT meetings. Therefore, we echo the request made a year ago and reiterate the need for interpretation at the SCRS meeting, as well as at the meetings of species groups, other working groups and sub-groups of the Commission structure. This is essential to guarantee effective participation and ensure smooth communication, so that representatives from different countries can express themselves in their native language.

We urge that work be done on a structure and mechanisms for meetings to have interpretation, as this would help to remove language barriers that could limit participation, as well as inclusiveness and fairness in the decision-making process.

Moreover, the Republic of Panama is convinced that the time has come to take concrete decisions on conservation measures for tropical tunas, after intense and productive discussions over the past few years. The current picture is markedly different from that of previous years, as evidenced by the recent yellowfin tuna assessment, which can be considered a testimony to the sound management that we have carried out together.

We begin today, two weeks of hard work with an agenda full of important and relevant issues for monitoring measures that are essential to efficient management, which involves monitoring of programmes, requirements, and revising the rules and responsibilities of the Member States of this Commission. In this regard, Panama reiterates its commitment to conservation of resources, but also underlines the importance of ensuring that the measures adopted allow for sustainable development of our fishing activities, especially for the benefit of developing countries that have been waiting patiently for years despite the impact that this wait has had for them.

Panama has demonstrated firm commitment to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by ratifying the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In addition, it is implementing the new 2021 Fisheries Law and regulations that seek to prevent and discourage IUU fishing, and to strengthen institutional governance involving various government entities, for supervision and control of these practices.

We are currently involved in constructive dialogue with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) and are implementing joint international cooperation actions with several key institutions, such as FAO, NOAA and NGOs. These partnerships are fundamental in our fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, building our capacities and promoting sustainable practices in the fisheries sector.

We greatly value international cooperation and joint work with Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and the Oceans Governance Project in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). These efforts are essential to guarantee and build our management capacities and ensure that our decisions are aligned with global commitments to protect the oceans.

Türkiye

The Republic of Türkiye's participation in the 24th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and its signature and adoption of any decision and/or recommendation made by the Commission should in no way be construed as recognition of the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" by the Republic of Türkiye, nor should it imply any obligation on the part of the Republic of Türkiye to enter into any dealing with the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" within the framework of the ICCAT.

European Union in response to Türkiye

The European Union (EU) and its Member States regret that Türkiye felt it necessary to make a unilateral declaration regarding the Republic of Cyprus during the 24th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) which is being held in Cyprus from 11 to 18 November.

The EU recalls that it recognises only the Republic of Cyprus as a subject of international law and underlines the importance it attaches to the normalisation of relations between the Republic of Cyprus and Türkiye.

The EU remains fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded and the *acquis*.

3.3 Statements by Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations

Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable y Seguridad Alimentaria (ALPESCAS) (Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security)

The Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security (ALPESCAS), made up of Latin American Fishing Industry Associations, reiterates its commitment to the conservation and responsible use of marine resources and in this context, we promote concrete actions to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and food security in the region.

In this framework, it is noted with concern that the catch of blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in longline fisheries has historically been underestimated, being treated as bycatch or alternative catch. However, as they coexist in the same environment as target species such as tuna or swordfish, their catch should not be ignored. This approach has led to inadequate fisheries management, which threatens both the blue shark stock and the sustainability of other species.

The fact that some countries continue to classify blue sharks as a non-target catch ignores their ecological and economic importance, while the controversial listing of the species in CITES Appendix II, which did not take into account the opinion of the FAO Panel of Experts, calls for more stringent management and its current treatment in many countries contrasts with international conservation standards. This dissonance not only compromises the health of blue shark stocks and other species, but poses a danger to the integrity of marine ecosystems and diverges from this Commission's principles of transparency.

ALPESCAS, by highlighting the importance of shark fisheries, in particular blue sharks, aims to contribute to an urgent need for management and to ensure more sustainable fisheries for the benefit of present and future generations. It therefore recommends ICCAT to adopt an agreement that recognizes blue shark as a target species and that its management is aligned with conservation and sustainable use strategies, seeking to:

- a) Stimulate the generation of the best scientific data to encourage research and better management of these fisheries.
- b) Support regulatory consistency to strengthen regional and national policies.
- c) To raise awareness among users and society regarding the natural abundance, importance and significance of this species as a global fishery resource.

ALPESCAS calls on this Commission to assume its historical role as an RFMO for management of Atlantic transnational fishery resources, seeking to influence the balance of measures suggested in other international fora for the management and conservation of ocean resources and the Blue Economy.

Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM) (German Foundation for Marine Conservation)

The writing on the wall for sharks

Shark populations have decreased globally although data on total mortality and stock status remain insufficient and are highly uncertain for most species and stocks due to poor compliance with reporting requirements. Despite the widespread adoption of anti-finning legislation, fishing related mortality has further increased to 79 million in 2017 and to likely 101 million in 2019, including 22-29 million of threatened sharks.¹ Caught by oceanic multi-year and multispecies fisheries and in lack of science-based conservation and fishery management measures, sharks are left “undermanaged” and their risk of extinction will further increase.²

- Commercially fished pelagic shark species, such as blue shark and shortfin mako, are overexploited at tuna RFMOs as MSE tested Management Procedures, as commonly developed for tuna and other teleost species, have not yet been developed for any shark species.
- Bycatch mitigation measures for sharks fail to avoid, minimize, or compensate the incidental catch of threatened pelagic elasmobranchs as adopted conservation measures mostly continue to focus on additional research and remediation instead of prioritizing avoidance of bycatch, by e.g. spatial-temporal management and/or depth prohibitions, and the minimization of mortality via gear and set modifications and catch limits.³

For this year’s Commission Meeting we specifically highlight the need for full compliance with adopted conservation and management measures.

- All requirements in the active recommendations for blue sharks and shortfin mako sharks as well as the respective reporting obligations for sharks must be fully complied with by all CPCs.
- The SCRS must be provided with the resources to deliver the requested scientific advice and perform the tasks outlined in the active recommendations.

Blue sharks

In 2023 ICCAT adopted [Rec. 23-11](#) and [Rec. 23-10](#) for the conservation of South Atlantic and North Atlantic blue sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries allocating catch limits for both stocks and tasking the SCRS to inform the Commission “by 2025 on the feasibility, cost, options and tentative roadmap for developing an MSE framework (including inter alia HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points) for the management of this stock in the ICCAT Convention area.”

However, at the 2024 SCRS meeting, the SCRS stated it may not have the capacity to perform this task in view of other MSE processes and starting MSE for both stocks of blue sharks was not included in the [Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes](#).

While the resource constraints of the SCRS remain an apparent, yet unresolved problem, resource constraints should not be the limiting factor for the completion of tasks and scientific work the Commission has requested for the conservation and management of stocks under its purview. We further highlight that the development of HCRs and reference points for blue sharks had already been requested by Rec. 19-08 and Rec. 19-07 to be started as part of the last stock assessment but were not performed out of similar constraints.

The sustainable management of commercially exploited blue sharks requires the development of MSE tested Management Procedures that can no longer be postponed.

¹ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adf8984>

² <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj0211>

³ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/faf.12710>

Therefore, we welcome the proposal by the United Kingdom for the “[Development of a new SCRS Science Strategic Plan](#)” that aims to identify and provide additional resources to ensure that capacity constraints by the SCRS will no longer delay the development of important Management Procedures e.g. for blue sharks or the performance of other scientific tasks. Using additional capacity from external experts should be considered wherever needed and appropriate.

- We further note that blue sharks require Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) as the species is now listed on CITES App II. Sustainable removals can best be demonstrated if stocks are managed by ICCAT as a (secondary) target species in line with the obligations laid down in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- Compliance with Task 1 and Task 2 reporting requirements for sharks including blue sharks continues being poor and we note that in past years only Japan, Korea (Rep.), Chinese Taipei and Canada have reported discards of blue sharks.
- The previous TAC of 28,923 t (Rec. 19-08) for the South Atlantic stock has been exceeded by 4,000-5,000 t ever since its implementation and again in 2023. At a total fishing related mortality of 30,602 t this stock continues experiencing overfishing, but so far only Brazil has noticeably reduced its catches.
- At the same time blue shark catches in the North Atlantic have increased in 2023 to 24,773 t thereby substantially exceeding the catch levels realized between 2020 and 2022, which the 2023 stock assessment considered to provide a high probability of maintaining this stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot.

Shortfin mako - North Atlantic stock

Total mortality of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic has again exceeded the agreed mortality limit of 250 t, by a factor of more than six. At a total mortality of more than 1,500 t in 2023 neither stock rebuilding has been started nor overfishing been ended, when the fishing mortality by the biggest catch nation already exceeded the overfishing limit of 600 t.

Almost eight years after the SCRS found this stock to be critically overfished ([SCRS 2019](#)) little progress has been made as shown in **Table 1** despite the temporary retention ban and the rebuilding plan adopted by the Commission in 2021, aiming to rebuild this stock with a probability of 60-70% by 2070, i.e. 45 years from now.

Instead of reducing catches e.g. by avoiding hotspots and introducing measures to increase the percentage of live releases, the by far biggest catch nation has increased its catches while not increasing the ratio of live releases, which remained far below the 60-80% of live releases other CPCs have demonstrated being possible. Spain is responsible for more than 2/3 of the total fishing related mortality of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic.

- We further note, that Rec. 21-09 (para 19) mandates the SCRS to “prioritize research into: identifying mating, pupping and nursery grounds, and other high concentration areas of North Atlantic shortfin mako; options for spatial-temporal measures; mitigation measures (inter alia, gear configuration and modification, deployment options), together with the benefits and disadvantages for the objectives of the rebuilding programme,...”. However, [SCRS Report 2024](#) only notes that “there is still no consensus or recommendation on the most effective measures to reduce fishing mortality.” However, no advice has been provided to the Commission in 2024, despite the task in para 20 ff) and the massive increase in mortality that further jeopardizes chances for rebuilding this critically overfished stock.
- We recall that e.g. WCPFC has implemented measures to reduce mortality of threatened sharks by having banned the use of wire traces (wire leaders) and shark lines in its area of competence between 20N and 20S since January 2024 ([WCPFC CMM 2022/04](#)). The Commission followed scientific advice presented by predictive modelling research that had shown the potential to reduce fishing mortality by 30.8% and 40.5% for silky sharks and critically oceanic whitetip sharks respectively.⁴

⁴ <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/42470>

- [IOTC conducted a specific workshop in April 2024](#) to evaluate the potential benefits from gear modifications in longline operations to reduce the mortality of threatened sharks, specifically of oceanic whitetip, shortfin mako, and silky sharks. The workshop reviewed a wide range of robust scientific research across ocean basins that were discussed by a number of global experts concluding that “a prohibition on the use of wire leaders and shark lines by longline and other fisheries operating in the IOTC would likely result in a reduction in both, the observed catch and the fishing mortality of shark species.” Based on these studies and taking a precautionary approach the Working Party on Ecosystem and Bycatch Data Preparatory recommended the implementation of additional mortality reduction measures for those shark species such as, but not limited to, the non-use of wire traces and shark lines.

The continued non-compliance of CPCs to reduce shortfin mako mortality and the inability of the SCRS to provide scientific advice on the implementation of measures to reduce mortality require urgent action by the Commission, now.

Existing science and numerous data from studies across oceans show that in the absence of alternative measures the single most effective measure to reduce shark mortality in combination with a retention ban is the use of monofilament leaders instead of wire leaders (wire traces).

In line with a precautionary approach and the urgent need to reduce shortfin mako mortality we call to the Commission to act and ensure compliance with Rec. 21-09.

Although we would prefer seeing measures adopted already in 2024, we fully support the suggestion by the United Kingdom in [discussion paper PA4_811](#) for an intersessional PA4 meeting between managers and scientists early in 2025 to identify appropriate measures to reduce shortfin mortality to a level in line with the 250 t limit. We also appreciate the request made to discuss this topic during this year’s Panel 4 meeting.

Shortfin mako - South Atlantic stock

[Rec. 22-11](#) attempts to limit total mortality of shortfin mako in the South Atlantic, in line with scientific advice ([SCRS 2019](#)), to 2001 t by limiting total annual retention to 1295 t. The retention allowance is allocated between the main catch nations and requires reporting of retentions, dead discards, and live releases by all CPCs. While discards have to be reported annually, retentions needs to be reported to the Secretariat monthly within 30 days and the Secretariat will notify all CPCs when a CPC has reached its limit of retention.

For 2023 a total mortality of 1355 t was reported to the Commission of which less than 800 t were retained, as the European Union did not retain any shortfin mako in 2023, since its Scientific Review Group does not consider shortfin mako being managed sustainably in the South Atlantic.

Based on the provided retention and discard data several questions of compliance remain:

- Despite the requirement to report dead discards and live releases none of the CPCs has reported live releases or provided estimates for these for the South Atlantic. Only Japan, Chinese Taipei, Brazil and the European Union have reported dead discards.
- Despite the monthly reporting obligation for retentions Namibia exceeded its retention allowance of 256 t by a factor of more than two in 2023 and has apparently failed to notify the Secretariat when reaching its allowance and not started discarding shortfin mako once having reached its allowance. The recommendation foresees that CPCs have to payback any excess of their allowance in full in the following year. Therefore, Namibia should not be entitled to retain any shortfin mako in 2024 and will also have a reduced allowance for 2025.
- [Rec. 22-11](#), para 21 a) requires all CPCs to submit by end of April 2024 all “technical and other management measures they have implemented for reducing total fishing mortality of South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks” to the SCRS for review and providing advice to the Commission on tools and approaches that have demonstrated to be most effective in reducing shortfin mako mortality.

The continued non-compliance with reporting requirements jeopardizes the intent of the adopted conservation and management measures and requires action by the Commission. Furthermore, CPCs have failed to provide required information on effective measures to reduce shortfin mako mortality and SCRS was therefore unable to provide the requested advice to the Commission. In the absence of alternative measures presented the Commission should therefore take a precautionary approach and refer to the best available measure at this time, i.e. banning the use of wire leaders and mandating the use of monofilament leaders in both parts of the Atlantic.

Existing retention bans and exemptions

ICCAT has been a pioneer in removing commercial incentives that are derived from the bycatch of threatened sharks in its fisheries by adopting retention bans for several threatened shark species over the past 10-15 years, including a retention ban for critically endangered oceanic whitetip sharks, threatened hammerhead sharks (all species in the family *Sphyrnidae* except of *Sphyrna tiburo*), vulnerable bigeye thresher sharks, and vulnerable silky sharks. However, as highlighted in last year's report from the Shark League for the Atlantic and the Mediterranean⁵ many exceptions apply and those are neither consistent in their definition nor are the respective provisions enforced by the CPCs, resulting in substantial catch and international trade in this species continuing contradictory to the stated conservation intent.

We welcome the attempt by the European Union to harmonize requirements for retention bans and the applicable exemptions in [PA4_805/2024](#). However, we strongly recommend not to combine the protection of threatened sharks from commercialization with requirements applicable to sharks that can be retained either as a (secondary) target species or as a bycatch. The latter require full utilization and should therefore only be landed with all fins naturally attached.

Furthermore, a harmonization of existing measures should not be done as a paper exercise but result in an improvement by eliminating existing gaps and inconsistencies.

Exemptions from retention bans should be truly limited to local consumption and not provide a loophole for feeding international markets. Furthermore, compliance with reporting requirements of Task 1 and Task 2 data should be a prerequisite for any exemption. Therefore, only subsistence fisheries in developing coastal States where measures are in place to prevent any part of these sharks entering the international trade should be exempted from existing and future retention bans and all exemptions should be condition to compliance with the respective reporting requirements.

Whale sharks and mobulid rays

At last year's ICCAT Commission Meeting retention bans were provisionally adopted for whale sharks and mobulid rays, but condition to the formal scientific advice by the SCRS.

We therefore welcome the proposal [PA4_804/2024](#) submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom to see both conservation measures coming into effect in 2025 as projected in the respective recommendations after the requested SCRS advice has now been provided.

Fins Naturally Attached (FNA)

The European Union has been a pioneer in ensuring full utilization of sharks through the adoption of its Regulation (EU) No. 605/2013 and many other CPCs have also implemented similar regulations in their jurisdiction, requiring all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached. At past ICCAT meetings, proposals to replace the outdated ICCAT Rec. 04-10 by a ban on the removal of shark fins at sea and the requirement to land all sharks with all of their fins naturally attached to the carcass. Despite strong support from many CPCs these proposals have so far unfortunately failed because of very few CPCs claiming that existing measures are sufficient and that no finning occurs in their fleets.

⁵ https://www.sharkleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SLAM_GAPAnalysis_FINAL-9JULY-compressed.pdf

Fins Naturally Attached is the globally recognized best practice to prevent finning from occurring as it allows effective detection and successful prosecution of offenses.

At this year's Commission Meeting, these CPCs should stop objecting to adoption of a FNA policy or provide scientific evidence that demonstrates the effectiveness and efficiency of the current systems they claim to have in place.

We therefore welcome proposal [PA4_806_REV_SPONS_4/2024](#) submitted by the United States, Canada, Belize, South Africa, the European Union, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Norway, Liberia and Mexico requiring all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached without exceptions.

Improved management of drifting FADs

The transition to non-entangling dFADS without any netting of meshed materials used in any part of the construction is longtime overdue and all vessels should be required to only set on non-entangling dFADS by January 2025 removing all entangling or lesser entangling constructions from the water that they encounter. A plan should also be provided for the transition by 2028 to fully biodegradable dFADS and to set up a recovery policy for beached dFADS should be developed and the number of dFADS limited, including time and spatial dFAD closures to protect juveniles and Endangered Threatened and Protected (ETP) species.

A dFAD measure should also include best handling practices for the release of ETP bycatch, technical measures to minimize ETP bycatch, and measures to increase at vessel and post release survival, such as but not limited to release ramps, with a specific focus on juvenile silky sharks, sea turtles and mobulid rays.

A dFAD register and a system for mandatory near real time notification of the flag state and ICCAT in case of lost dFADS should be installed, including the time and last available position of the lost dFADS.

We recommend that the Commission adopts a stand-alone dFAD management measure including these requirements.

Consideration of Climate Change impacts for TAC setting

Climate Change impacts all fish stocks and the commercial viability of fisheries in all oceans as well as the livelihoods of people depending on fishing and fish for an income and subsistence. Therefore, clear priorities are needed to advance the work on an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and climate considerations must be included in MSEs and the development of Management Procedures.

The establishment of a climate change experts' group is important to guide and help prioritize these efforts within ICCAT.

We welcome the establishment of a standing working group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (SWGSM) as submitted by the Chair of the Joint Experts' Meeting on Climate Change [PLE_119/2024](#).

Additional information on shortfin mako

Table 1. Fishing related mortality of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic since 2018, including landings (L), dead discards (DD), and live releases (DL).

Catch per CPC in mt	2018	2019		2020		2021		2022*		2023*	
	L+DD	L+DD	DL	L+DD	DL	L+DD	DL	L+DD	DL	L+DD	DL
Spain	1,165 +0	866 +0	-	870 +0	-	0 +585	329	0 +588	331	0 +936	705
Portugal	272 +0	289 +0	-	342 +11	20	202 +14	26	1 +141	256	0 +87	158
EU Fleet	1437	1156	1	1223	20	802	355	731	587	1024	863
Maroc	594	501	-	382	-	299	-	0	-	0 +125	216
Japan	20 +0	4 +30	-	0 +28	17	0 +15	11	0 +10	7	0 +14	10
Canada	53 +2	63 +1	12	1 +20	81	0 +22	63	0 +26	83	0 +12	23
USA	165 +2	57 +1	24	48 +3	31	39 +4	68	41 +10	47	0 +29	43
LL+DL Others**	29 +26	46 +25	10	21 +17	10	10 +2	4	5 +7	11	56 +11	14
Total Mortality in mt***	2,392	1,902		1,794		1,364		1,077		1,673	
Exceeds 250 mt	x9.6	x7.6		x7.2		x5.4		x4.3		x6.7	

* ICCAT retention ban according to [Rec. 21-09](#) active since 2022.

** All other CPC with landings or DD of 1 mt or more.

*** Total mortality as provided by [SCRS 2024](#) table on p.290 based on a post release mortality of 34% ([Bowlby et al., 2021](#)) for sharks released alive.

Global Fishing Watch (GFW)

Global Fishing Watch would like to express its gratitude for the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Global Fishing Watch is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing ocean governance through increased transparency of human activity at sea. By creating and publicly sharing map visualizations, data and analysis tools, we aim to support scientific research and transform the way our ocean is managed. We believe that human activity at sea should be public knowledge in order to safeguard the global ocean for the common good of all.

We are delighted to be attending our second Commission Annual Meeting and our first in-person session. Since our formation in 2016, we have closely followed ICCAT's outcomes and discussions. Over the years, we have been fortunate to enjoy productive partnerships with many ICCAT Contracting Parties and Cooperators, focusing on transparency in ocean governance. We look forward to deepening and expanding these partnerships together over the coming years.

Global Fishing Watch is focused on providing expertise and collaborating with our partners to support enhanced vessel tracking, vessel registry, and the submission of beneficial ownership information. These efforts will improve transparency, enhance accountability, reduce ecological threats and combat Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported fishing.

We are eager to contribute future discussions on these topics as well as to supporting ICCAT's research programs. Thank you once again for this valuable opportunity, we wish you all a successful and fruitful meeting.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

This Position Statement outlines issues that we urge the ICCAT Commission to act on at its upcoming meeting.

Compliance processes

2024 asks

- Adopt a workplan for the Compliance Committee to develop audit points for ICCAT management measures, such as those developed for sharks in [Rec. 18-06](#).
- Adopt procedures to identify and address non-compliance with TAC allocations.

Background

A strong and transparent compliance process improves fisheries management by holding regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) members accountable. ICCAT has one of the most well designed and transparent compliance assessment processes of the five tuna RFMOs, but it can continue to be strengthened. ISSF and Pew Charitable Trusts have recommendations to improve RFMO compliance processes in workshop reports: [2020 report](#), [2021 report](#), [2022 report](#).

Priorities to progress

Review reporting by ICCAT Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) of live and dead discards of sharks, particularly shortfin mako, and take corrective actions as needed.

RFMO Compliance Information & Resources

Tuna stock conservation

2024 asks

- Adopt a new recommendation for tropical tuna conservation and management that ensures bigeye and yellowfin stocks are maintained at sustainable levels. This will require stronger management measures to reduce the yellowfin catch. The measure needs to fully allocate the total allowable catch (TAC) between CPCs, especially for yellowfin.
- Maintain the current TAC for Mediterranean albacore.

Background

The yellowfin TAC has been exceeded every year but one since it came into effect in 2012. In 2023, catches were almost 27% above the TAC and 15% above MSY. In addition, the yellowfin TAC is not allocated by CPC or gear which makes it impossible to identify non-compliance by individual CPCs. The stock was assessed in 2024 and estimated to be very close to the biomass and fishing mortality levels that support MSY. Projections at the current level of catch indicate that it will become overfished in the future and therefore stronger management measures are needed to reduce the catch. The Mediterranean albacore stock was assessed in 2024, resulting in very different stock status outcomes, depending on two different data inputs. However, projections made under either result indicate that the current TAC of 2,500 tonnes will allow the stock to continue to rebuild.

Priorities to progress

Develop a plan in Panel 2 to rebuild historical fishery data for Mediterranean albacore in order to improve the stock assessment inputs.

Tuna Conservation Information & Ressources

FAD management

2024 asks

As part of the revised tropical tuna conservation measure, and in line with ISSF's established approach to strengthening FAD management:

- Clarify that Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) must be fully non-entangling, i.e., without any netting or meshed materials;
- Adopt the definition of "biodegradable" categories consistent with those of IATTC and WCPFC and establish a timeline for transition to biodegradable FADs similar to what was agreed in the IATTC or IOTC; and
- Establish a timeline to develop a FAD register.
- If the Commission extends the current Recommendation for tropical tuna conservation and management for another year, adopt a stand-alone FAD measure that includes all of the above asks.

Background

In the past few years, the difficult discussions on allocation surrounding the tropical tuna measure have put aside important actions for improved FAD management, such as FAD design, marking, recovery, activation/deactivation rules, data use for science, etc. It is important for ICCAT to bring its FAD management measures in line with existing best practice by adopting new policies and needed improvements to its FAD measures.

Priorities to progress

- Develop and adopt an effective FAD marking scheme for both FAD structure and geolocating buoy.
- Develop and adopt clear rules for FAD ownership and for FAD buoy activation and deactivation.
- Develop and adopt a requirement for provision to ICCAT of near real-time FAD position and acoustic biomass records data for scientific use with a maximum time lag of 90 days to protect confidentiality.
- Develop and adopt a policy for FAD-recovery.

*FAD Management Information & Resources****Electronic monitoring (EM) and reporting & observer coverage****2024 asks*

Increase observer coverage large-scale longline vessels to 20%, allowing for the use of EM to reach this level.

Background

Comprehensive observer coverage is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, species composition and bycatch. 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for major fisheries is feasible and necessary. ICCAT's minimum 10% observer coverage requirement for longline vessels fishing for tropical tunas is still too low for bycatch estimates to be reliable and EM can help increase coverage. In 2023, ICCAT adopted minimum EM standards and program requirements for both purse seine and longline fisheries. CPCs with longline fisheries should embrace this opportunity to improve monitoring.

Priorities to progress

- Develop a plan to gradually increase observer coverage (human and/or electronic) on large-scale longline vessels toward 100% coverage in industrial tuna fisheries, including support vessels and all vessels engaged in at sea transshipment.
- Develop a Regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries.

*Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information & Resources****Transshipment regulation****2024 asks*

Adopt revisions to Rec. 21-15 to strengthen the regulation of at-sea transshipment in line with [best practice standards](#), including requiring:

- near real-time electronic reporting (not longer than 24 hours after the event) for all transshipment activity;
- that carrier vessels only to be flagged to CPCs; and
- that AIS data are reported in addition to required VMS data.

Background

If not well-managed, transshipment at-sea can be a conduit for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fish to enter the supply chain. ICCAT strengthened its transshipment regulations in 2021, but they should be further improved to be aligned with [best practice standards](#).

Priorities to progress

- Develop guidelines, including criteria, for flag CPC authorization of at-sea transshipment and a review process.

Effective management procedures (harvest strategies)

2024 asks

- Adopt a management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack recommended by SCRS, as well as multi-stock management objectives for bigeye, yellowfin and eastern skipjack.
- Panel 3 begins to plan for the development of a management procedure for South Atlantic Albacore.

Background

Management Procedures (MPs) provide a modern mechanism for fisheries management that accounts for uncertainty in an explicit and precautionary manner. ICCAT has successfully adopted MPs for northern albacore and Atlantic bluefin tuna. The SCRS, with input from Panel 1 has developed an MP for western skipjack and North Atlantic swordfish. MP development involves detailed work by scientists, managers, and stakeholders. As many ICCAT stocks do not have an MP yet, it is important to finalize and adopt those that are well developed and prioritize future MP work for other stocks.

Priorities to progress

- Accelerate development of MPs for all tropical tuna stocks.

Bycatch mitigation & shark protections

2024 asks

- Require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.
- Request the SCRS to review science-based mitigation techniques for seabird bycatch so the Commission can adopt revisions to Rec. 11-09 that reflect up-to-date scientific bycatch mitigation best practices in 2025.
- Give full effect to Recs. 23-12 and 23-14 on whale sharks and mobulid rays such that they enter into force on 1 January 2025 and 1 July 2025, respectively.

Background

In 2023, ICCAT adopted Rec. 23-14 on mobulid rays and Rec. 23-12 on whale sharks. However, the key regulations in both of them, like a retention prohibition, would not enter into force unless the SCRS confirmed that this was a taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data. This year, SCRS confirmed that this was the case and recommended giving full effect to the two measures. The current management measure for seabirds (Rec. 11- 09) is outdated and no longer aligned with best-practice mitigation techniques, such as those of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

[*Bycatch Reduction Information & Resources*](#)

Capacity

Background

Experts agree that there is overcapacity, too many vessels, in the global tuna fleets. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures, and eventually it leads to stock overexploitation.

Priorities to progress

- Establish limited entry through closed vessel registries and develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume.

Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts looks forward to a productive 24th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat and chairs in hosting the many intersessional discussions that have helped set up this meeting for success. Building on the advancements from last year, we highlight the following opportunities to improve fisheries management in the Atlantic:

1. Endorse the *Climate Change plan of action* and adopt updated terms of reference for the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)

Members should address the urgent need to incorporate climate change considerations into the management of Atlantic fisheries, by: adding Climate Change to the SWGSM TOR's to implement the plan of action, as proposed in [PLE_119/2024](#); coordinating Climate Change related activities across ICCAT; and engaging external stakeholders, such as other RFMOs and the FAO. SWGSM should also consider how to scale up existing tools like climate-integrated MSE for more ICCAT species and embrace an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. As per the proposed plan of action, climate change should be added as a standing item to the Commission, STACFAD and SCRS plenary agendas.

2. Prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Last year, ICCAT adopted [Res. 23-23](#) on the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments, adding these international agreements as a standing agenda item for SCRS and the Commission meeting. This year, ICCAT should take next steps to prepare for this engagement with the BBNJ treaty by tasking the SCRS with the development of a process to review potential proposals for new area-based management. Noting the need for improved regional coordination, ICCAT can also take proactive steps by putting in place agreements and mechanisms (e.g., MOU between NAFO and ICCAT similar to that between ICCAT and SEAFO), that would promote greater knowledge and data sharing, allowing for monitoring to expand beyond sector specific goals to provide a more holistic picture of ecosystem health.

3. Commit to MSE as the future of fisheries management

ICCAT began a transition to a management procedure-based approach nearly a decade ago with the adoption of [Rec. 15-07](#). Of the eight stocks prioritized for MSE, as few as three will remain in initial MSE development following this meeting. It is therefore a good time to reflect on ICCAT's progress to date, lessons learned, and strategies to streamline future MSE processes, including for additional stocks of interest not specified in [Rec. 15-07](#). We urge the Plenary to add North and South Atlantic blue sharks, south Atlantic albacore and south Atlantic swordfish to the MSE roadmap ([PLE_108/2024](#)). To support these efforts, the Commission should hire a full-time MSE technical expert to join the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible. Such a position would add much needed MSE capacity to the SCRS, ensure consistency in the various MSE developments across ICCAT, and help to guide the review and implementation of the MSE roadmap. Note that other tuna RFMOs, such as IATTC have also hired an MSE Coordinator to join the Secretariat staff and progress similar efforts.

4. Progress toward entry into force of the ICCAT Convention amendments

Recognizing that the 2019 Convention Amendments have only been ratified by a few members, Plenary should discuss CPCs' barriers to ratification and chart a path forward, including by providing capacity assistance where necessary. Noting the Amendments include an expansion of ICCAT's mandate to include elasmobranchs, CPCs should also work to improve data reporting, including by increasing submissions of data for dead and live discards.

5. Broaden compliance capacity building initiatives

And finally, recognizing ICCAT's efforts to improve compliance, Pew recommends that ICCAT expand its compliance capacity building missions to include all CPCs requesting support. These missions can help multiple CPCs improve data submission by identifying and addressing specific needs and how to build the necessary legal domestic framework to ensure that their fleets are following the Commission's rules.

Sciaena

Sciaena is grateful for the opportunity to participate as an observer to the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT. As the Atlantic faces growing pressures that threaten its health, we believe the following proposals are key to demonstrate commitment to healthy pelagic ecosystems and sustainable fisheries management.

Ensure sustainable management of bigeye tuna

In 2024, ICCAT must adopt a much-delayed measure for tropical tuna, which must take into account the signs of recovery of the bigeye tuna stock and the uncertainties that persist in the assessment. It is crucial that the measure gives the stock the best probabilities of staying in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix, providing a solid basis for the upcoming years. The following elements must be included:

- A TAC no higher than 73,000 tons;
- A new allocation key for all fleets, considering historical catches, the needs of developing nations, and criteria for reducing negative impacts on the stock and the ecosystem;
- A reinforced set of FAD management measures (including a registry and marking scheme);
- Expanded observer coverage and electronic fleet monitoring.

Adopt an MSE for North Atlantic swordfish

Sciaena calls on CPCs to adopt a MSE for North Atlantic swordfish in this year's meeting, which is key to ensure the sustainability of the pelagic longline fisheries in the region and to fulfil the SCRS work plan on MSEs. We support proposal PA4_809/2024.

Implement strong measures for the conservation of sharks

Sciaena believes it is crucial that the Commission gives a green light to the development of a Blue Shark MSE, acknowledging the work that has already begun at the SCRS.

We urge CPCs to urgently adopt and implement measures to reduce mako mortality, as the results presented by SCRS indicate that mortality hasn't decreased.

Continue leadership on control, monitoring and compliance

In 2024 we call on ICCAT to keep improving its track record in terms of combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing by:

- Endorsing the work advanced on basic design characteristics of the expanded CDS, and consider the inclusion of yellowfin tuna;
- Establishing an HSBI working group;
- Adopting a work plan to develop an ICCAT EM program, with ongoing trials demonstrating the way forward;
- Adopting proposal PWG_422/2024 on transshipment.

Taking steps towards ecosystem and climate considerations

Sciaena fully supports proposal PLE_119 and urges its adoption as a key step to ensure the inclusion of climate considerations and ecosystem elements in MSEs and management procedures. We see this as the most objective step to ensure moving towards EBFM and thus ensuring ICCAT's contribution to healthy and resilient ecosystems in the Atlantic.

The Shark Trust

The Shark Trust, in concert with our coalition partners, appreciates this opportunity to participate in the 2024 ICCAT annual meeting on the historic and fascinating island of Cyprus.

We continue to focus on rebuilding populations of the most inherently vulnerable species under ICCAT's purview: sharks and rays. We request priority attention to current requirements and proposed management measures that are essential for these species' recovery.

Specifically, at this meeting, we urge Parties to actively support adoption of ICCAT measures to:

- protect endangered whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and manta and devil rays (*Mobula* spp.) by prohibiting retention and promoting safe release (in line with proposal PA4_804 and SCRS advice);
- enforce the finning ban and improve species-specific shark catch data by requiring that sharks be landed with fins naturally attached, without exceptions (in line with proposal PA4_806); and
- improve compliance with North Atlantic shortfin mako mandates to minimize incidental mortality, including through a focused intersessional in 2025 (in line with proposal PA4_811).

In addition, ensuring the effectiveness of other existing ICCAT shark conservation measures remains critical. We urge Parties to work - independently and within ICCAT - towards:

- increasing observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for longline vessels to 20% and commit to additional incremental increases to reach 100% coverage on all industrial vessels to ensure robust compliance monitoring and reliable estimation of catch composition and discards;
- continuing to improve the reporting of shark landings, discards, and national regulation details in ICCAT Shark Check Sheets; and
- establishing of a clear procedure for the SCRS and Compliance Committee to evaluate Parties' requests for exemptions to shark data requirements and/or shark fishing restrictions (as per Rec. 18-06).

Mindful of our vital role in contributing to sound policy, supporting good governance, and promoting accountability, we look forward to a productive meeting.

Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 2024

24-01

TRO

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 22-01 ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

RECALLING the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13) establishes that for stocks that are overfished and not subject to overfishing (i.e. stocks in the lower left yellow quadrant of the Kobe diagram) the Commission shall adopt management measures designed to rebuild these stocks in as short period possible, taking into account, inter alia, the biology of the stock and Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice;

TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT that it is advisable to continue exploring alternative and more effective systems or regimes for the management of tropical tunas and for this the SCRS' recommendation is required;

NOTING that the stock assessment for bigeye tuna (BET) in 2021 indicated that the stock is overfished but no longer subject to overfishing;

RECALLING the successive reductions of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna from 85,000 t to 62,000 t and their detrimental socio-economic impacts;

CONSIDERING that the Committee has recommended that effective measures be found to reduce fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the First Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group and the Third Meeting of ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs, on FAD management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna mortality;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY);

FURTHER NOTING that support vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse seine vessels using FADs and that the number of support vessels has increased over the years;

RECALLING the provisions of *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

FURTHER RECALLING the significant body of international law that recognizes the rights and special requirements of developing States, including but not limited to, as applicable, Article 119 of UNCLOS and Article 24 and Part VII of UNFSA;

RECOGNISING the particular interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing opportunities, and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to developing coastal States over time;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the importance and role of small-scale, artisanal, and subsistence fishers as well as the Global Action Plan of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that any increase of fishing capacity should remain commensurate with fishing opportunities to achieve sustainable productive fisheries, while allowing developing coastal States to develop their fishing capacity to take advantage of new fishing opportunities;

EMPHASIZING the importance of preventing an uncontrolled increase of the fishing capacity, and in particular the necessity to control the transfer of capacity from other oceans to the Atlantic;

ALSO CONSIDERING that catch limits previously allocated to some CPCs shall not be considered acquired rights;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Conservation and management measures

1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) shall apply the following conservation and management measures with the objective of managing fishing mortality of tropical tunas, including small bigeye and yellowfin.

Multi-annual Management, Rebuilding and Conservation Programme

2. CPCs shall continue to implement a 15-year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna started in 2020 and continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with a probability of more than 50%. CPCs shall also implement conservation and management measures with the objective of ensuring that the stocks of yellowfin and skipjack tuna are exploited sustainably.

**PART II
CATCH LIMITS**

Total Allowable Catch and Harvest Control Rule for bigeye tuna

3. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be set at 73,011 t for 2025. This TAC level shall be continued for 2026 and 2027 if the stock assessment to be conducted in 2025 indicates that the probability of the stock being in the green zone in 2034 in K2SM (hereinafter called “the probability”) is at or more than 65%. If the probability is less than 65%, the Commission shall adopt a TAC with a probability that is at or more than 65%. If the probability of a 2026 TAC of 73,011 t is more than 70%, the Commission shall consider possible increases to the TAC provided that the probability is at least 70%.
4. The Commission recognizes that the 65% and 70% probabilities are interim figures for establishing the TAC for 2025, 2026 and 2027 and are higher compared to the percentages typically used for other ICCAT stocks. These percentages do not set a precedent for future discussions of the Commission. These percentages shall only be used if the 2025 assessment exceptionally so determines, in application of paragraph 3 above.
5. Notwithstanding the above, paragraphs 3 and 4 shall cease to apply when the Commission establishes a management procedure (MP) based on a tropical tuna management strategy evaluation (MSE).

Catch limits for bigeye tuna and conditions associated with the catch limits

6. As an interim measure, the following catch limits for bigeye tuna shall apply for 2025, 2026 and 2027, unless a change in TAC is adopted pursuant to paragraph 3:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Category</i> ¹	<i>Catch limits (t)</i>
EU	A	13,576.29
Japan		13,865.86
Chinese Taipei		9,151.19
China (P.R.)		4,624.07
Korea		1,100.00
Brazil	B	6,825.37
Ghana		4,445.85
Senegal		2,546.01
Curaçao		2,810.00
Panama		2,430.00
El Salvador		1,980.00
Belize		1,956.33
Morocco		1,600.00
Small harvesters	C	6,100.00

7. In implementing the bigeye catch limits in paragraph 6, the following provisions shall apply:
- The Sub-total for Category C is not a limit.
 - CPCs in Category C shall be subject to a 1,575 t trigger threshold. If the annual catches of bigeye tuna by a CPC in Category C exceeds this threshold in two consecutive years from 2025, Panel 1 shall determine a binding catch limit to apply to that CPC in future years.
 - CPCs in Category C shall not be subject to any underharvest, carry-over or payback provisions, and shall not be eligible to engage in transfers of fishing opportunities pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas* (Rec. 01-12). The provisions on chartering in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel chartering* (Rec. 13-14) remain unaffected as a mechanism for the development of CPC fisheries in this Category.
 - If the combined bigeye tuna catches of all CPCs within Category C exceed the sub-total for Category C in any given year, Panel 1 shall reconsider the arrangement, including the need to assign catch limits to individual CPCs within Category C.
 - If the TAC in 2026 is decreased in accordance with paragraph 3, the reserve for Category C shall remain unchanged.
 - If a CPC in Categories A or B underharvests its total catch limit (as adjusted to account for over or under harvests but excluding quota transfers) in any year, it may carry-forward into the next year or the year following that, a maximum of 10% of its initial catch limit specified in paragraph 6.
 - If the TAC in 2026 is increased in accordance with paragraph 3, at least 20% of the increase in the TAC shall be allocated to Category C.

¹ For the purpose of this Recommendation, the category does not reflect any CPC's economic development level.

8. The provisions of paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, and that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources. Any limitations that may result from this Recommendation for those CPCs shall be considered interim for the duration of this Recommendation, without prejudice to its reviews and amendments.
9. Small-scale fisheries, including those operating in overseas territories and outermost regions of a CPC, shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.
10. The annual catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long-term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
11. If the total catch in any year exceeds the annual TAC specified in paragraph 3, adjusted by the carryover of underharvests, when applicable, due to causes other than exceeding of catch limits by a CPC with an allocated catch limit, the Commission shall review these measures.
12. Korea may transfer up to 223 t of its bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to Chinese Taipei annually from 2025 to 2027. Japan will make an annual transfer of 350 t of its bigeye catch limit to China from 2025 to 2027.

Excess with respect to bigeye tuna catch limits

13. Any overharvest of its total annual catch limit of bigeye tuna for CPCs listed in paragraph 6 shall be deducted from that CPC's catch limit on or before the adjustment year as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2025	2027
2026	2028
2027	2029

14. Taking into account paragraph 13, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
 - a) In one year, then the amount deducted on or before the adjustment year shall be determined as 100% of the overage; and
 - b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission shall recommend appropriate measures, which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the accumulated excess harvest.

Monitoring of catch

15. CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas by species caught by vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
16. Notwithstanding paragraph 15, for purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater), CPCs shall report on a monthly basis, increasing to weekly when 80% of their bigeye tuna catch limits have been caught.
17. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the bigeye TAC has been caught.
18. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs and shall keep it published and updated on the ICCAT website.

TAC for yellowfin tuna

19. The annual TAC for 2025 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
20. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2027 Annual Meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures or allocated catch limits.
21. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 19, the Commission shall consider additional management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall take into account the special requirements of developing coastal CPCs.
22. The ICCAT Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the yellowfin TAC has been caught.

Fishing, management and capacity plans

23. By 15 February each year, CPCs in Category A and B, as specified in paragraph 6, shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 on how they will implement their respective catch limit obligations. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20 m or \geq 20 m) and support vessels.
24. Each CPC shall demonstrate in the plan that its total capacity is commensurate with its catch limit, taking into account the annual average bigeye catches per vessel in the past and other factors such as dependence of each vessel on bigeye catch. For information purposes, Panel 1 shall annually review these plans.
25. Notwithstanding paragraph 23, if a CPC in Category C catches more than 500 t of bigeye tuna in any year, it shall submit a fishing, management and capacity plan to Panel 1 within two years following the year the catch was made. The plan shall include the current number of fishing vessels by gear and by size (< 20 m or \geq 20 m) as well as any plan to introduce additional fishing vessels in the current or following year. The plans shall be submitted to Panel 1 for information.
26. Any CPCs in Category C that plan to expand capacity in 2025, 2026 or 2027, shall provide a declaration by the 31 January of that year. These declarations should include details of proposed/potential fleet additions, including vessel characteristics and gear type. The declarations shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs shall amend their declaration as their situation and opportunities change.

PART III CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES ON FISHING AND SUPPORT VESSELS

27. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that received the support of each support vessel. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile this information and prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this, CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the number active in 2019; this does not apply to the new participants in purse seine fisheries, for which a maximum proportion of support vessels can be defined in 2025 based on an SCRS recommendation.
28. For the purposes of this measure, a support vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited to deploying, servicing and retrieving FADs.

PART IV MANAGEMENT OF FADS

FAD management objectives

29. The general objectives for management of FADs and support vessels in the Convention area are defined as follows:
- a) To minimize potential impacts that high FAD density may have on purse seine fishing efficiency, while minimizing disproportionate impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;
 - b) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that results from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;
 - c) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, including entanglement of marine species, particularly those of conservation concern;
 - d) To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by preventing the beaching, stranding or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of pelagic habitat.
30. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:
- i. Floating object (FOB): Any natural or artificial floating (i.e. surface or subsurface) object with no capability of moving on its own. FADs are those FOBs that are man-made and intentionally deployed and/or tracked. Logs are those FOBs that are accidentally lost from anthropic and natural sources.
 - ii. Fish Aggregating Device (FAD): Permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, and used to aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can either be anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).
 - iii. FAD set: Setting a fishing gear around a tuna school associated with a FAD.
 - iv. Operational buoy: Any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea, which transmits position and any other available information such as eco-sounder estimates.
 - v. Activation: The act of enabling satellite communication services by the buoy supplier company at the request of the buoy owner. The owner then starts paying fees for communication services. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been manually switched on.
 - vi. Biodegradable: Non-synthetic material² and/or bio- based alternatives that are consistent with international standards³ for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their composition.
 - vii. Non-entangling FAD: A FAD that does not include any netting materials for any part of the FAD including both the surface structure (e.g. raft) and subsurface structure (e.g. tail).

² For example, plant-based materials such as cotton, jute, manila hemp (abaca), bamboo, natural rubber, or animal-based such as leather, wool, lard.

³ International standards such as ASTM D6691, D7881, TUV Austria, European or any such standards approved by ICCAT.

FAD closure

31. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas by purse seine and baitboat vessels in association with FADs, and activity by vessels supporting such vessels shall be prohibited during a 45 day-period in 2025 from 17 March to 30 April, throughout the Convention area. In 2025, the SCRS shall estimate the expected effects of the measures in this and previous Recommendations, in particular, the possible effects of increasing catch limits of CPCs with purse seiners in terms of change in bigeye juvenile mortality, based on the new bigeye stock assessment, and revise the K2SM. The Commission shall consider, as appropriate, based on the SCRS' work, whether to modify the FAD closure period or establish additional measures at its 2025 Regular Meeting. If the Commission cannot agree to any additional measures in 2025, a FAD closure period of at least the same length shall remain in place for 2026 and 2027.
32. In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels do not deploy drifting FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the closure period.

FAD limitations

33. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 30. The number of FADs with operational buoys shall be verified through the verification of telecommunication bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:
 - 2025: 300 FADs per vessel
 - 2026 and 2027: 288 FADs per vessel.
34. With a view to analyzing the establishment of FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin at sustainable levels, national scientists from CPCs with purse seine vessels shall submit analyses of the per fleet catch rates of bigeye and yellowfin on FADs from 2019 to 2023 and present these to the SCRS for their evaluation in 2025. Also, CPCs with purse seine vessels shall report to the SCRS by 15 July 2025 the required available historical FAD set data in the format required by the SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE) for a minimum of the last five years (2019-2023). For those CPCs who have provided the historical FAD set data, the data of the latest year shall be provided. CPCs that do not report these data in accordance with this paragraph shall be automatically and immediately prohibited from setting on FADs until such data have been received by the Secretariat. By 1 August 2025, the Secretariat shall provide a report to the Commission on the data received, including a notification of any CPCs that have not provided the required data and are prohibited from setting on FADs. When any CPC subject to such prohibition rectifies the situation by submitting its data to the Secretariat for transmission to the SCRS, the Secretariat shall, without delay, so notify the Commission.

In 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission on the maximum number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in the Convention area. To this purpose, the advice from the SCRS shall describe the data set used, the methodology, as well as the objectives set within the context of all tropical tuna fisheries. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as an amendment to the data provision standards applicable in ICCAT. SCRS shall evaluate and advise to the Commission on any change in the data provision standards to be required of all fleets fishing for tropical tunas. The information provided under this paragraph can only be utilized for the specific purposes expressed herein.

In addition, each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the 2024 level to the Commission at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

35. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 23-18) and shall provide to the SCRS information on fishing activities specified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer program* (Rec. 16-14) and Rec. 23-18. Each year, by 15 July, CPCs shall notify the Secretariat which of their purse seine vessels that set on floating objects in the previous year complied with the provisions of this paragraph. The Secretariat shall provide a summary of the verifications made by the CPCs, to the Compliance Committee for analyses and recommendations 30 days ahead of the annual meeting.
36. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the effect of support vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2025.

FAD management plans

37. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary management plans for the use of aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 15 February each year.
38. The objective of the FAD management plans shall be the following:
 - i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and non-target species;
 - ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
 - iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).
39. The plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 1**.

FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

40. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:
 - a) Deployment of any FAD
 - i. Position
 - ii. Date
 - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - iv. FAD identifier (i.e. FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
 - v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

- b) Visit on any FAD
 - i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy⁴, retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD⁵)
 - ii. Position
 - iii. Date
 - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e. FAD marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
 - vi. Buoy ID
 - vii. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)
- c) Loss of any FAD
 - i. Last registered position
 - ii. Date of the last registered position
 - iii. FAD identifier (i.e. FAD marking and buoy ID)

For the purpose of the collection and reporting of the information referred to above and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider using the template laid down in **Annex 2** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs shall use the minimum standards recommended by the SCRS in **Annex 3**.

- 41. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 33 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 4**.
- 42. The IMM Working Group and SCRS shall review the requirements of paragraphs 39, 40 and 41 and make recommendations to remove duplication and streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light of any future FAD registry and associated technology change.

Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels

- 43. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
 - i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
 - ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
 - iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
 - iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
 - v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
 - vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task 2 data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
 - vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line with Task 1 and Task 2 requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

⁴Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FADs owner).

⁵A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter with a FAD (opportunistic).

Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

44. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e. will be placed in the water) in the ICCAT Convention area shall comply with the following specifications in accordance with **Annex 5**:
 - a) the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
 - b) only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used.
45. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:
 - a) CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy FADs of biodegradability Categories I, II and III, as defined in **Annex 5**;
 - b) CPCs shall no longer deploy any FADs of Category IV, as defined in **Annex 5**;
 - c) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall use only FADs of Categories I and II, as defined in **Annex 5**; and
 - d) as of 1 January 2028, CPCs shall use only FADs of Category I, as defined in **Annex 5**.
46. Notwithstanding paragraph 45, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD Categories I and II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.
47. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable materials in drifting FADs.
48. CPCs shall collect and submit to ICCAT detailed information in their FAD management plans on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in **Annex 5** prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD.
49. CPCs shall submit in their FAD management plans information concerning the status of implementation of paragraphs 44 and 45, and this information shall be made available for analysis to the SCRS and the IMM Working Group.
50. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing biodegradable FAD (bioFAD) designs in a continued effort of design improvement and to share the results in the FAD management plan. The Secretariat shall make this available to the SCRS when provided.
51. The SCRS and the IMM Working Group shall review the information reported by CPCs and shall, as necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.
52. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation of this Recommendation.

PART V CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas

53. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels

54. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels, including support vessels. Tropical tuna vessels not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.

55. Notwithstanding paragraph 54, a CPC may allow bycatch of tropical tunas by fishing vessels 20m LOA or greater not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 53, if this CPC establishes a maximum per trip onboard bycatch limit of not more than 5% by species for such vessels and the bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report: a) the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels, b) the total amount of tropical tuna harvested as bycatch that year, c) information about how the CPC ensures compliance with the limit and d) the maximum per trip bycatch limit the CPC will allow per stock for the coming fishing year. The information in item d) above shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs by 15 January each year.
56. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.
57. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT*. For purse seine vessels, the notification shall include data on transport or fishing carrying capacity of the vessels in gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT), aiming ICCAT to monitor the capacity of fleet activity in the Convention area.
58. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.
59. The provisions of paragraphs 53 to 58 do not apply to recreational vessels.

Transshipments

60. Large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs) shall be allowed to transship at sea only in the presence of a Regional Observer onboard carrier vessels, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending 21-15 on transshipment* (Rec. 24-15).

Recording of catch and fishing activities

61. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 6** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 03-13).

Identification of IUU fishing activity

62. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, during the period of closure, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
63. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.
64. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 62, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 62, on the draft ICCAT IUU vessel list.

Observers

65. Observers shall perform tasks to verify compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and carry out the scientific data collection and tasks required by the SCRS. While on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area East of meridian 20°/West longitude and North of parallel 28°/ South latitude in the Convention area, the following shall apply:

- Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the Flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.

66. In 2025, 2026, and 2027 CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10% observer coverage on their longline vessels of 20m LOA or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention Area. This shall be achieved through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or a combination of human observers and EMS consistent with Rec. 16-14, unless a derogation as outlined in that measure applies and EMS can be used to cover the required minimum percentage of human observers as advised by the SCRS.

CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or by a combination of observers and EMS from the previous year in accordance with Rec. 23-18 and Rec. 16-14 to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

67. CPCs shall submit all relevant data and administer scientific observer programs for tropical tunas in accordance with Rec. 16-14. In 2025, the SCRS shall provide advice on the improvements to observer programs including how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve maximum effectiveness. The SCRS shall consider available information to recommend, where appropriate, improvements to ICCAT standards.

68. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, including through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers.

For purse seine vessels flying their flag and targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure 100% observer coverage of fishing effort, through the presence of an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or through implementation of EMS that is consistent with the requirements of Rec. 23-18. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or a combination of observers and EMS from the previous year in accordance with Rec. 23-18 and Rec. 16-14 to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the SCRS, taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

69. In any case, the purse seine flag CPC may maintain the coverage of 20% of human observers, provided that it implements the EMS in the remaining 80% of its entire fleet, for a 100% coverage and the EMS information is audited in all its components, informing the Secretariat of the periodic audit reports carried out by whoever the CPC designates for this purpose.

70. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under observer and EMS programs, including on the coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the annual meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

71. The IMM Working Group shall consider and provide recommendations to the Commission on the possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs and the possible use of electronic monitoring systems for tropical tuna fisheries.

72. On the basis of the advice from IMM Working Group, the Commission shall consider how to use existing schemes of observers, deployed onboard vessels authorized to fish for tropical tunas in ICCAT. For this purpose, the CPC whose flag or chartered vessel involved in already existing observers' programs should provide details about these schemes to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025, including the copy of the agreement endorsed by the flag State and the applicable CPC of the observers.

Port sampling programme

73. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable. SCRS shall report each year on the implementation of the port sampling programme broken down by CPCs.
74. In 2025, the IMM shall discuss control measures relating to:
 - a) the use of FADs, including the feasibility, utility and effectiveness of establishing a FAD registry taking into account the existence of complete information on active vessels and their VMS operations, as well as monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures;
 - b) the timely processing of data for all tropical tuna fisheries in the Convention area, including for FADs, in accordance with the tasks in **Annex 8**;
 - c) the improvement of the quantity and quality of size sampling.

PART VI MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES/MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE)

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Candidate Harvest Control Rules

75. The SCRS shall refine the MSE process in line with the roadmap adopted by the Commission. Based on input from Panel 1 on interim operational management objectives starting in 2025 in the *Resolution by ICCAT on interim operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna* (Res. 24-02), the SCRS should continue testing the candidate management procedures. In 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g. purse seine, longline and baitboat) on juvenile mortality and the yield at MSY, as well as other impacts of these fisheries, including impacts on bycatch, ecosystem impacts and socio-economic impacts.

PART VII FINAL PROVISIONS

Availability of data to the SCRS and to national scientists

76. CPCs shall ensure that:
 - a. Both paper and/or electronic fishing logbooks and the FAD logbooks referred to in paragraph 40, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
 - b. Their Task 1, 2 and 3 data, including catch at size, shall include active vessels, support vessel activity, FADs, observers and summary of port sampling. The information collected from the fishing or/and FAD logbooks, where applicable, is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.
77. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data derived from all fisheries, including those related to FADs (e.g. logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, consistent with relevant CPC confidentiality requirements.

Confidentiality

78. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with *Rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT* and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

Final provisions

79. Actions required from the SCRS and the ICCAT Secretariat:

- a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in PA1_505A/2019⁶ might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with recommendations from the SCRS;
- b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their flag, and the species or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g. tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.). This work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in 2025 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration.

80. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 22-01) and *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 23-01) and shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2027.

81. Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, all CPCs are strongly encouraged to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2025.

⁶ Available upon request from the ICCAT Secretariat or on the [2019 Commission meeting documents webpage](#).

Guidelines for preparation of FAD management plans

The FAD management plan for a CPC purse seine and baitboat fleets must include the following:

1. Description
 - a) FAD types: aFAD = anchored; dFAD = drifting
 - b) Type of beacon/buoy
 - c) Maximum number of FADs to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
 - d) Minimum distance between aFADs
 - e) Incidental bycatch reduction and utilization policy
 - f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
 - g) Statement or policy on “FAD ownership”
 - h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs
2. Institutional arrangements
 - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD management plan
 - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
 - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
 - d) FAD replacement policy
 - e) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
 - f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
 - g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
 - a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
 - b) Lighting requirements
 - c) Radar reflectors
 - d) Visible distance
 - e) FAD markings and identifier
 - f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - h) Satellite transceivers
 - i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
 - j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
 - k) Management of FADs recovery
4. Applicable period for the FAD management plan
5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD management plan

Annex 2

FAD logbook

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Buoys ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>Bycatch</i>				<i>Observations</i>
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Specimens released alive</i>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...
...

(1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) i.e. deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy

(6) hh:mm

(7) N/S (in degrees and minutes) or E/W (in degrees and minutes).

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimens.

(13) If no FAD marking or associated beacon ID is available, report all available information in this section which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

Annex 3

Table 1. Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 7).

<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Example</i>
DFAD	Drifting FAD	Bamboo or metal raft
AFAD	Anchored FAD	Very large buoy
FALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (and related to fishing activities)	Nets, wreck, ropes
HALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)	Washing machine, oil tank
ANLOG	Natural log of animal origin	Carcasses, whale shark
VNLOG	Natural log of plant origin	Branches, trunk, palm leaf

Table 2. Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS Report (section 18.2, Table 8).

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB ¹
Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB ²
Remove buoy	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

¹ A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).

² Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD & electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD</i>		<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Associated buoy ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of the associated buoy and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>	<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
...
...

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.

(2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.

(4) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

Principles for non-entangling and biodegradable designs of dFADs

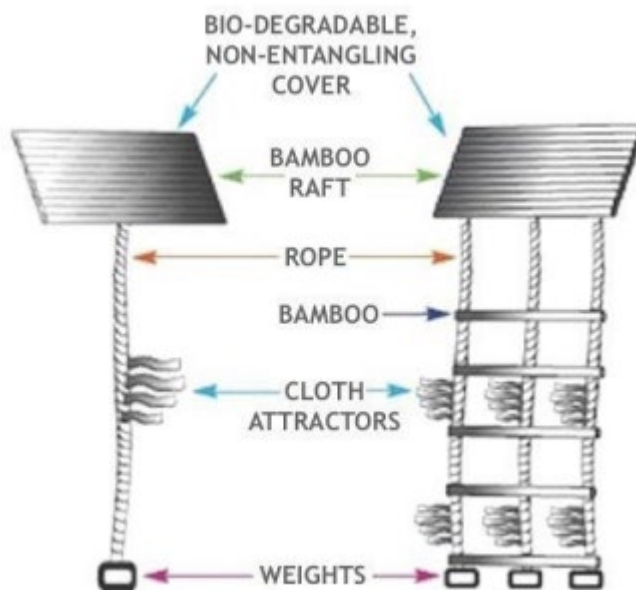


Figure. Example of a non-entangling, biodegradable FAD.

1. Fish aggregating devices shall be constructed with no netting or entangling material in both the surface structure (raft) and the submerged structure.
2. For the purposes of this Recommendation, the following FAD categories are identified, on the basis of their degree of biodegradability (from non-biodegradable to 100% biodegradable), with the understanding that the respective definitions do not apply the electronic buoys that are attached to FADs in order to track them:

Category I. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials.

Category II. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials except for plastic-based flotation components (e.g. plastic buoys, foam, purse seine corks).

Category III. The subsurface part of the FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part and any flotation components contain non-biodegradable materials (e.g. synthetic raffia, metallic frame, plastic floats, nylon ropes).

Category IV. The subsurface part of the FAD contains non-biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part is made of fully biodegradable materials, except for, possibly, flotation components.

Category V. The surface and subsurface parts of the FAD contain non-biodegradable materials.

Annex 6**Requirements for catch recording****Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:**

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) and before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, 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
6. Species identification:
 - a) By FAO code
 - b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
 - c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information in case of landing, transshipments:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 65-72 of this Recommendation 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 assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - The ability to observe and record accurately;
 - The ability to collect biological samples;
 - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.
2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observed and shall:
 - a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
 - b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
 - c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.
3. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

 - i. Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - ii. Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iii. Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv. Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
 - v. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
 - vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task 2 data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with **Table 1** below.
 - b) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

Obligations of the observers

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
5. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
6. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this Annex.

Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels

7. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
 - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear 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 point 3 of this Annex:
 - i. satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii. radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii. electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.
 - 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 and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

Table 1. FOB/FAD information added to observer onboard form to comply with RFMOs recommendations. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 9).

<i>Properties</i>	<i>DFAD</i>	<i>AFAD</i>	<i>HALOG</i>	<i>FALOG</i>	<i>ANLOG</i>	<i>VNLOG</i>
FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB	X	X		X		
Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)	X	X		X		
Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)	X	X	X	X		
Approximate surface area of the FOB	X	X	X	X		
Specify the FOB's ID whenever present	X	X	X	X		
Fleet owning the tracking device/echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel owning the tracking device/echosounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)		X				
Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)		X				
Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Tracking device Type+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined	X	X	X	X	X	X

Annex 8**IMM tasks relating to FADs**

1. The IMM Working Group is tasked to discuss how to establish an ICCAT FADs registry for the purpose of establishing FADs' ownership and improving control measures of fishing activities on FADs.
2. The IMM shall in particular:
 - a) Explore and report on how a FAD registry could contribute to solving the issue of lack of ownership of FADs, contribute to improving the recovery of FADs and reducing beaching events, and provide a scope for improving MCS measures in relation to fishing activities on FADs.
 - b) Identify the feasibility and most effective approach(es) to establish a FAD registry in ICCAT, including by identifying the responsibilities of the CPCs, their operators and the Secretariat, and providing estimates of possible costs.
 - c) Review, in collaboration with Panel 1 as required, the requirements of paragraphs 37-39 and make recommendations to streamline FAD data and reporting obligations, in light of any future FAD registry and technology change. The objective of this review shall be to ensure priority data and reporting needs are met whilst minimizing administrative burden and duplicative reporting requirements.
 - d) Report to, and as appropriate, submit recommendations to the Commission.

24-03

BET

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE
RECOMMENDATION 23-02 ON BRAZIL'S BIGEYE TUNA PAYBACK PLAN**

RECOGNISING the overharvest of 1,587.34 t from 2022 and 922.03 t from 2023;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Brazil is paying back 355.34 t in 2024 from the 2022 overharvest;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Brazil has established a National Regulatory Framework to avoid the continued overharvest of bigeye tuna from 2023, under the coordination of the newly created Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, joint with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change;

CONSIDERING that Brazil has recently strengthened the National Regulatory Framework through a programme with a more robust monitoring, control and inspection measures for tuna, besides bigeye tuna fisheries closures;

NOTING Brazil's willingness to payback accumulated exceeding catches and fulfill ICCAT management and conservation measures;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that Brazil is committed to the goals of ICCAT's management and conservation plan for tropical tunas, especially the bigeye;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The remaining overharvest of bigeye tuna of 1,232 t from 2022 and the overharvest of 922.03 t from 2023 shall be paid back over a period of 4 years, from 2025 to 2028, in the following way:
 - 2025 to 2028: 538.5 t
2. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Brazil's bigeye tuna payback plan* (Rec. 23-02)

24-04

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A CANDIDATE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE
FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC SKIPJACK TUNA**

RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt management procedures (MPs) tested through management strategy evaluation (MSE) for priority stocks, including western skipjack tuna, as established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation* (Rec. 15-07) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT concerning the use of a precautionary approach in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the western Atlantic skipjack stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13);

TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT the relatively short life cycle and highly variable population dynamic of the skipjack tuna species;

NOTING the conclusions of the 2022 Stock Assessment conducted by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which indicated that the western Atlantic skipjack stock is most likely located in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

RECALLING that the preliminary performance indicators agreed to by the Commission for tropical tunas, as outlined in *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01), included four categories of management objectives, namely Status, Safety, Yield and Stability;

RECALLING the conceptual management objectives agreed by ICCAT for western skipjack in *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack* (Res. 22-02);

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY));

CONSIDERING the work of the SCRS since 2020 to test through MSE several candidate MPs;

RECALLING that the Commission requested the SCRS to continue testing various candidate MPs in 2024 and to meet with Panel 1 to review the results and support the Panel in selecting one to adopt in 2024 and for this purpose Panel 1 held three intersessional meetings in 2024, including one dedicated to the Western Skipjack MSE;

RECOGNISING that after 6 years of implementation of the MP it is advisable to review;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**Part I
General provisions**

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish for western Atlantic skipjack tuna in the Convention area shall implement the following [MP]. This [MP] shall be used to calculate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the western Atlantic management area for 2026 and beyond.

Management objectives

2. The management objectives for the western Atlantic skipjack tuna stock are:
 - a) Stock status: The stock should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix over the medium-term (4-10 years) using a 30-year projection period.
 - b) Safety: There should be no greater than 10% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} ($0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$) at any point during the 30-year projection period.
 - c) Yield: Maximize overall catch levels.
 - d) Stability: Any changes in TAC between management periods should be 25% or less.

Performance indicators used to evaluate MP performance for each management objective are found in **Annex 1**.

Part II Management procedure and exceptional circumstances

3. Consistent with the management objectives specified in paragraph 2, the [XX] management procedure has been selected.

TAC setting

4. The first constant annual TAC derived from the MP shall apply in 2026, 2027, and 2028. The management cycle length shall be three years; therefore, the MP shall be applied every three years. The procedure for the establishment of the 3-year constant annual TAC is set out in **Annex 2**.
5. According to the timeline set out in **Annex 2**, the SCRS shall run the MP and advise the Commission of the resulting TAC per the process specified in **Annex 2**.
6. The Commission shall then adopt the TAC based on the outcome of the MP, unless the SCRS identifies exceptional circumstances that require consideration of alternative management actions to be taken by the Commission.
7. The SCRS shall assess the occurrence of exceptional circumstances annually and the Commission shall act in accordance with the exceptional circumstances protocol, developed based on scientific advice provided by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission.

Part III Final provisions

8. In 2025, the SCRS shall finalize tuning of the MP to achieve the status objective specified in paragraph 2 for review and adoption by the Commission at its 2025 Annual Meeting. This measure will be revised in 2025, and the final MP specifications will become Annex 3 of this Recommendation.
9. Panel 1 shall develop an approach to maintain catches within the TAC for review and adoption by the Commission at its 2025 Annual Meeting.
10. Panel 1, with scientific guidance from the SCRS, shall develop the exceptional circumstances protocol for this MP for review and adoption by the Commission at its 2025 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. The protocol will become Annex 4 of this Recommendation once adopted.

11. A review of the performance of the MP by the Commission and the SCRS shall be completed by 2031 and every 6 years thereafter. The aim of the review is to ensure the MP is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation, or that warrant reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing MP; including new indices into a new MP; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework. Based on that review and subsequent SCRS advice, the Commission shall decide on future management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, inter alia, regarding TAC levels, for western Atlantic skipjack.
12. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack* (Res. 22-02).

Table of operational management objectives and performance indicators

Management objectives	Corresponding performance indicators
Status The stock should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix over the medium-term (4-10 years) using a 30-year projection period.	PGK_{short} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e., $SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) in year 1-3 PGK_{medium} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e., $SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) in year 4-10* PGK_{long} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e., $SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) over years 11-30 PGK : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e., $SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) over years 1-30 POF : Probability of $F > F_{MSY}$ over years 1-30 PNOF : Probability of $F < F_{MSY}$ over years 1-30
Safety There should be no greater than 10% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} ($0.4 * B_{MSY}$) at any point during the 30-year projection period.	LRP_{short} : Probability of breaching the limit reference point (i.e., $SSB < 0.4 * SSB_{MSY}$) over years 1-3 LRP_{medium} : Probability of breaching the limit reference point (i.e., $SSB < 0.4 * SSB_{MSY}$) over years 4-10 LRP_{long} : Probability of breaching the limit reference point (i.e., $SSB < 0.4 * SSB_{MSY}$) over years 11-30 LRP_{all} : Probability of breaching the limit reference point (i.e., $SSB < 0.4 * SSB_{MSY}$) over years 1-30
Yield Maximize overall catch levels.	AvC_{short} : Median catches (t) over years 1-3 AvC_{medium} : Median catches (t) over years 4-10 AvC_{long} : Median catches (t) over years 11-30
Stability Any changes in TAC between management periods should be 25% or less.	VarC_{medium} : Variation in TAC (%) between management cycles over years 4-10 VarC_{long} : Variation in TAC (%) between management cycles over years 11-30 Var_{all} : Variation in TAC (%) between management cycles over years 1-30

*Tuning objective to be used for candidate MP development.

Annex 2**Schedule for Management Procedure Implementation****3-Year Cycle**

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
SCRS check for exceptional circumstances		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCRS runs candidate MPs	X						
Commission adopts an MP	X						
SCRS runs MP	X			X			X
Commission adopts TAC based on MP	X			X			X
TAC in effect		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCRS MP review							X
Status Check/Assessment ¹							X
Commission assesses SCRS review and next steps							X

¹ The Status Check/Assessment will follow the methodology of the 2022 Stock Assessment, running both the SPSS and Stock Synthesis (SS3) models.

24-05

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 22-08
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA
IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

ACKNOWLEDGING the advice from the 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 Mediterranean (*Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-04 on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Rec. 17-07)*);

CONSIDERING that the SCRS has completed a management strategy evaluation (MSE) to establish a management procedure (MP), which includes harvest control rules (HCR), and the Commission has decided on the MP at its 2022 Annual Meeting to establish Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for 2023 and thereafter;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the small-scale fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that the control of capacity remains effective;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures, and reinforcing traceability of the catches, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish and farming activities;

CONSIDERING that various provisions in *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* were identified that would benefit from being clarified or otherwise improved and reinforced;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**Part I:
General Provisions and Objectives**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities hereinafter referred to as CPCs, whose vessels have been fishing actively for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall implement a management plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2023 based on the MP as in *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-09 establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Rec. 23-07)*.

Definitions

2. For purposes of this Recommendation:
 - a) “fishing vessel” means any powered vessel used 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/farm cage, a purse seine vessel or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel;
- e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing live bluefin tuna cages;
- f) “support vessel” means any other vessel authorised to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery to perform support tasks, which does not fall into any of the other categories mentioned in paragraph a) above. Support vessels may not retain on board or transport bluefin tuna;
- 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 to in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more bluefin tuna purse seine vessels where the catch of one bluefin tuna purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other bluefin tuna purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key. The JFO may or may not involve the active participation in bluefin tuna catching of all the purse seiners that make up the JFO;
- 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 trap to the transport cage, independent of the presence of a towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of a cage containing live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna between different cages in the same farm (intra-farm transfer);
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a farm cage to a transport cage.
- j) “inter farm transfer” means relocation of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another farm composed of two phases, a transfer from the donor farm cage to a transport cage and a caging from the transport cage to the receiving farm cage;
- k) “first transfer” means a transfer of live bluefin tuna from a purse seine net or a trap to a transport cage;
- l) “further transfer” means any transfer operation that is conducted after the first transfer and before caging at the destination farm, such as splitting or merging of the contents of two transport cages but that does not include voluntary or control transfers;
- m) “donor operator” means the master of the catching or the towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of a farm or a trap, from which a transfer operation originates (except for voluntary and control transfers);
- n) “CPC of the donor operator” means the CPC that exercises its jurisdiction on the donor operator;
- o) “voluntary transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being voluntarily implemented by the donor operator, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of **Annex 8**;
- p) “control transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being implemented at the request of control authorities;

- q) “control caging” means a repetition of the caging operation being implemented at the request of the control authorities, for the purpose of verifying the number and or the average weight of fish being caged;
- r) “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;
- s) “caging” means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages;
- t) “fattening” or “farming” means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass;
- u) “farm” means a marine site clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seine vessels. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon);
- v) “harvesting” means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps;
- w) “transhipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seine, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transhipment;
- x) “sport fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license;
- y) “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;
- z) “stereoscopic camera” means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of measuring the length of the fish and assisting in refining the number and weight of bluefin tuna;
- aa) “control camera” means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation;
- bb) “BCD or electronic BCD (eBCD)” means a bluefin catch document;
- cc) “lengths of vessels” means overall lengths;
- dd) “small-scale coastal vessel” is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following characteristics: (a) length overall <12 m; (b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial waters of the flag CPC; (c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours; (d) the maximum crew number is established at four persons; or (e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are selective and have a reduced environmental impact;
- ee) “farm CPC” means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the bluefin tuna farm is located;
- ff) “flag CPC” means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged;
- gg) “trap CPC” means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the trap is located;
- hh) “input farming capacity” means the maximum amount of wild bluefin tuna in tons that a farm is allowed to cage during a fishing season.

Part II:
Management measures

TAC and quotas and conditions associated with the allocation of quotas to CPCs

3. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 48 a) of this Recommendation.
4. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for 2023 to 2025 shall be set at 40,570 t, in accordance with the MP. The TACs for 2026 and thereafter shall be decided at the 2025 Commission Annual Meeting in accordance with the MP.

40,570 t shall be allocated in 2023 to 2025 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual Quota in 2023-2025 (t)</i>
Albania	264
Algeria	2,023
China	112
Egypt	513
European Union	21,503
Iceland	224
Japan	3,114
Korea	221
Libya	2,548
Morocco	3,700
Namibia	50
Norway	368
Syria	129
Tunisia	3,000
Türkiye	2,600
United Kingdom	63
Chinese Taipei	101
Subtotal	40,533
Unallocated Reserves	37
TOTAL	40,570

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in *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 new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2023 to 2025. Recognizing the special circumstances of Iceland, Iceland may transfer up to 200 t of its quota to the European Union.

5. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.

6. Automatic carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its annual quota from one year to the following year. The CPC shall include this request in its annual fishing/capacity plans for endorsement by the Commission.
7. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
8. Notwithstanding the provision of *Recommendation – Temporary adjust of quotas* (Rec. 01-12), all CPCs specifically referred to in the table in paragraph 4, may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
9. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall payback in the next subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries* (Rec. 96-14).

Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing and farming capacity management and inspection plans and farming management plans

10. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota as well as each CPC seeking to export aquacultured bluefin tuna as referred to in *Recommendation by ICCAT on aquaculture bluefin tuna* (Rec. 24-07) 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 drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 12-13.
 - b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraphs 14-21.
 - c) Monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. This plan shall also designate the CPC control competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan.
 - d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set out in paragraphs 22 and 23, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous year, in accordance with paragraphs 203-209.
 - e) An annual aquaculture plan, as appropriate, to be made in accordance with Rec. 24-07.
11. Prior to 31 March each year and in line with paragraph 237 of this Recommendation, unless otherwise decided by the Commission, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10. This obligation may be done by electronic means if the Commission so decides. 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 or export of aquacultured bluefin tuna by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Annual fishing plans

12. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on by-catch.

13. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between by-catch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

Capacity management measures

Fishing capacity

Adjustment of fishing capacity

14. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed and each time that a stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.
15. The annual fishing capacity management plan as referred to in paragraph 10 b) shall adjust the number of catching vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by the SCRS in 2009) shall no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:
 - a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment.
 - b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 above.
16. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.
17. By derogation to paragraph 16, CPCs may increase the number of their purse seine vessels, provided that this increase results from a conversion from other bluefin tuna fleets, that the fishing capacity remains commensurate with available fishing opportunities, and that, overall, the final CPC fishing capacity, between purse seiners and the fleet from which the conversion is made, does not represent a capacity increase with respect to the precedent year (2018).
18. The ratio for converting fleets as per the derogation set out in paragraph 17, should be based on the 2009 catch rates provided by the SCRS. CPCs wishing to use this derogation must include the relevant details in their annual fishing capacity plans submitted pursuant to paragraph 10.
19. CPCs may authorize the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.
20. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 15, 16 and 19 shall not apply:
 - a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to paragraph 10;

- b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
21. Any calculation to establish adjustments of fishing capacity shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual Meeting and with the conditions set in paragraphs 15 and 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Norway or Iceland.

Farming capacity

22. Each farm CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraph 23. Revised farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming and input capacity in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
23. 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. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.
24. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.

Growth rates

25. Based on new available scientific information, including where relevant the result of the trials on Artificial Intelligence (AI) referred to in paragraph 167, the SCRS should consider reviewing and updating the growth table published in 2022, as soon as possible and present those results to the Commission.
26. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS in 2022. If significant discrepancies are found between the 2022 SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis. Import CPCs and farm CPCs shall be encouraged to cooperate in monitoring the growth rates in a comprehensive manner through exchange of relevant data, without prejudice to applicable rules on the protection of personal data, and to report the result of the monitoring to Panel 2, as appropriate.
27. A functionality within the eBCD system to automatically monitor growth rates shall be considered by the CDS WG in 2025. The CDS WG deliberation, among other considerations, should take into account the development and maintenance costs of the proposed functionality.

Part III: Technical measures

Open seasons

28. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July.

By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean; 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea.

By way of derogation the purse seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November.

By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

29. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred to under paragraph 28 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.
30. The catching of bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the 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.
31. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse seine vessels and vessels referred to in paragraph 30 and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in paragraph 12 to be analysed and as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally.
32. Not later than 2022, the Commission shall decide to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.

Minimum size

33. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115 cm 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.
34. By derogation from paragraph 33, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations (see **Annex 1**):
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats;
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean by the small-scale coastal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea by Croatian flag vessels for the purpose of farming, the relevant CPC may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 66 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to a maximum of 7% by weight of the total quantities of bluefin tuna caught by those Croatian vessels. In addition, for bluefin tuna caught by French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 70 cm.

35. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorizations to vessels fishing under the derogations referred to in paragraph 34. In addition, fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against the CPC quota.

Incidental catches of fish below minimum size

36. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and tuna traps, CPCs may authorize an incidental catch of no more than 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75 and 115 cm.

This percentage shall be calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board a vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above-mentioned weight or length categories.

General rules on by-catches

37. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized bycatches as well as the methodology to calculate those bycatches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of bycatch can be calculated on an annual basis.

All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If bycatch of bluefin tuna occurs in waters under the fishery jurisdiction of CPCs whose current domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish must be landed, this landing obligation shall be complied with also by vessels flying foreign flags.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as bycatch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If, however, such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to the SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 89 to 94 and 231 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-16 amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 24-16).

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

38. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to 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. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.

39. 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.

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.

40. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.

41. Each CPC shall take measures to 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 31 July each year.

42. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 4.
43. 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.
44. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the Northeast 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. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC’s quota.
45. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
46. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 45 shall include the following information:
 - a) Name of vessel, register number;
 - b) ICCAT Record number (if any);
 - c) Previous name (if any);
 - d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s).

Use of aerial means

47. 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, traps and farms

ICCAT Record of fishing vessels

48. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels as defined in paragraph 2 a). That record shall consist of the following lists:
 - a) catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as per paragraph 2 g) of this Recommendation; and
 - b) other vessels engaged in bluefin tuna related activities, other than catching vessels.
49. Each list shall include the following information:
 - a) name and registry number of the vessel;
 - b) specification of the type of vessel differentiating at least between: catching vessels, towing vessels, auxiliary vessels, support vessels, processing vessels;
 - c) length and gross registered tonnage (GRT) or, where possible, gross tonnage (GT);

- d) IMO number (if any);
 - e) gear used (if any);
 - f) previous flag (if any);
 - g) previous name (if any);
 - h) previous details of deletion for other registers (if any);
 - i) international radio call sign (if any);
 - j) name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); and
 - k) time period authorized for fishing, operating and/or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.
50. For vessels over 24 metres (independently of the gear used, excluding for bottom trawlers,) and for all purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate the number of vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.
51. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the ICCAT Record of all catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and all other vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including by placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
52. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph 48 a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 48 b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for submitting data and information required by ICCAT*.
53. 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 Secretariat, providing:
- a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record referred to in paragraph 48; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in paragraph 48, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record, provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a request for an ICCAT number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided;
 - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.
- The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete, it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.
54. Without prejudice to paragraph 37 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 48 a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.
55. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14) (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

56. CPCs shall issue special authorizations and/or national fishing licenses to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 45, 48 and 58. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 13**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorization is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation 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

57. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. 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, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.
58. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 12 to 13, the list (including the name of the traps, register number and geographical coordinates of the trap polygon) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 56.
59. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of traps, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of traps at any time such changes occur.
60. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

ICCAT Record of farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna

61. The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna farms not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for bluefin tuna.
62. Each farm CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their farming plan defined in paragraph 10 d), the list of its authorized bluefin tuna farms, including:
- i. the name of the farm;
 - ii. register number;
 - iii. names and addresses of owner(s) and operator(s);
 - iv. the input and total farming capacity allocated to each farm;
 - v. the geographical coordinates of the areas authorized for farming activities; and
 - vi. the status of the farm (active or inactive).
63. No farming activities, including feeding for fattening purposes or harvesting of bluefin tuna, shall be authorized outside of the geographical coordinates approved for farming activities.
64. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of farms at any time such changes occur.
65. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

66. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no bluefin tuna is placed into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT Record and that the farms do not receive bluefin tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT Record of vessels referred to in paragraph 48. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit any operation on farms not registered in the ICCAT Record of farms.

Information on fishing activities

67. By 15 July each year, or within 7 months of the completion of the fishing season for those CPCs that end their fishing campaign in July, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and the 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 authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
 - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorization(s);
 - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
 - e) the total catch outside their period of authorization (bycatch).
68. For all vessels that were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean but that caught bluefin tuna as bycatch, the following information shall be provided to the ICCAT Secretariat:
- 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.
69. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraphs 67 and 68 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Joint fishing operations

70. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the express written consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorized, each purse seine vessel 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 paragraphs 71 and 73. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse seine 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 seine vessels, as referred to under paragraph 28 of this Recommendation.
71. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, and via the form developed by the Secretariat, 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 five working days before the start of the purse seine vessels fishing season as defined in paragraph 28.

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 the ICCAT Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information referred under this paragraph provided by CPCs for the review by the Compliance Committee.

CPCs are allowed to transfer the unused quotas of vessels participating in a JFO to vessels participating in another JFO, provided that such transfer is necessary due to *force majeure* and made prior to the start of the JFO receiving the unused quota.

72. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all JFOs authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
73. No JFOs between purse seine vessels from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than five authorized purse seine vessels 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.

Part IV: Control measures

Section B - Catches and transshipments

Recording requirements

74. 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**.
75. 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

76. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 33. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in **Annex 2** or through the CPCs reporting requirement.
77. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 76 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.
78. Trap operators or their authorized 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 authorized to fish bluefin tuna.
79. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 76 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

Designated ports

80. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat.
81. 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 transshipment times;
 - b) established landing and transshipment places; and
 - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 85.
82. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary 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 80 and 81. However, exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.
83. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 80 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
84. The provisions of this Recommendation shall not affect the entry of a CPC fishing vessel to port, in accordance with international law, for reasons of *force majeure* or distress.

Prior notification of landings

85. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary 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) the external identification number and the name of the fishing vessel;
 - b) the date and estimated time of arrival at port;
 - c) the port of destination and the purposes of the call, such as landing, transshipment or access to services;
 - d) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
 - e) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

The CPC where the landing takes place may set a shorter period for the prior notification, considering the distance between the area of activity and the port or landing site, and provided that such shorter period of prior notification does not impair the ability of that CPC to carry out inspections.

Where catches are taken between the time of the prior notification and arrival at port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only to catches equal to or greater than three fish or one ton provided that they include this information in their monitoring, control and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10. CPCs that decide, pursuant to this paragraph, to set a shorter period for prior notification shall provide this information, including detail of the possible shortened period and the reasons therefore and the rest of the conditions set for the prior notification, prior to implementation in their monitoring, control, and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for a period of one year from the date of Port entry.

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 target percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.

After each trip, Masters of catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours 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 catching vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat

86. CPCs shall send bi-weekly catch reports by gear, covering the two weeks' activity, and through the relevant activity periods, without delay, to the ICCAT Secretariat, to ensure the data publication deadline specified below can be met. In the case of purse seine vessels and traps, the reports shall be as defined in paragraphs 76 to 78. Total reported catches will be published by the ICCAT Secretariat on a password protected area of the ICCAT web site during the second week of each month. If there are no catches over the reporting period, and for purse seiners and traps only, the bi-weekly catch report should include a notification of nil catches.
87. 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

88. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and where appropriate eBCDs, as well as 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 by species on all landings, transshipment, transfers and caging between the quantities recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant documentation, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transshipment

89. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 80 to 84.

90. 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 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in **Annex 3**, according to the port State's domestic law. 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**.
91. 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.
92. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 5 working days after the transshipment in port as per *Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment* (Rec. 21-15). 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 eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
93. 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.
94. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Part IV: Control measures

Section C - Observer Programmes

CPC Observer Programme

95. Each CPC shall ensure that CPC observers, issued with an official identification document, are deployed on vessels flying its flag and on traps under its jurisdiction that are active in the bluefin tuna fishery, to achieve at least the following coverage rates:
 - 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 its towing vessels;
 - 100% of harvesting operations from its traps.
96. CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above shall ensure coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.
97. In implementing this CPC observer programme, CPCs shall ensure that:
 - a) temporal and spatial coverage is representative to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on bluefin tuna catch, effort, and other related scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
 - b) robust data collection protocols are implemented;
 - c) the CPC observer is provided, before the start of his/her deployment, with a list of contacts within the CPC competent authority where to report observations;
 - d) each CPC observer is properly trained and qualified before deployment;

- e) to the extent practicable, the operations of vessels and traps concerned suffer minimal disruption;
 - f) the master of the fishing vessel or the trap operator allows the CPC observer access to the electronic means of communication on board the fishing vessel or on the trap.
98. Data and information collected under each CPC's 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 2023 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
99. 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. The SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC's observer programmes.
100. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the CPC observers are detailed in **Annex 6**.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

101. The ICCAT Regional Observer Programme referred to in **Annex 6** shall be implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage as follows:
- on all purse seine vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seine vessels to transport cages;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
 - during all transfers from one farm cage to transport cages, which then are towed to another farm;
 - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
 - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
 - during the release of bluefin tuna from farms.

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 95, for releases of tuna from farms, only the regional observer, and not the national observer, shall be present on the towing vessel.

Notwithstanding the above, when, for reasons of *force majeure* (e.g., pandemic) duly notified to ICCAT, the deployment of a regional observer is not possible, the vessel, trap or farm may operate without the observer. In such cases, CPCs shall prioritize such vessels, farms, and traps for control and inspection.

In addition, CPCs shall implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the regional observer programme, including, where possible, deploying either a national inspector or a national observer to act in locum of the regional observer. The CPC concerned shall send all details of the alternative measures to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall compile and circulate all the information received on the implementation of these procedures to the Commission. Such alternative measures and the actions taken will be examined by the Compliance Committee during each annual meeting.

102. By way of derogation from paragraph 101, harvesting from farms up to 1000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required in the harvest section of the eBCD. This derogation shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the PWG, possibly through its Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), by 2027 at the latest.

103. Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer on board shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.
104. One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the entirety of caging and harvesting operations. In cases of *force majeure* that have been confirmed by the farm CPC authority, or in cases where neighboring farms, as authorized and controlled by the farm CPC, operate jointly as one unit, an ICCAT regional observer may be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of farming operations if so authorized by the farm CPC competent authority.
105. By way of derogation from paragraph 104, in case of transfer between two different farms under the competence of the same national authority, a single regional observer can be assigned to cover the entire process including the transfer of fish to a towing transport cage, the towing of the fish from the donor farm to the recipient farm and the caging of fish on the recipient farm. In this case, a regional observer should be deployed by the donor farm and the cost shall be shared by both the donor and receiving farms, unless otherwise determined by the farming companies.
106. As a matter of priority, the ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel, towing vessel, trap or farm, for which their services are required and, to the extent possible, the ICCAT Secretariat and the provider responsible for the ROP shall ensure the observer has a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel and farm or trap CPC. The requirements that the regional observer not be of the same nationality as the observed vessel, farm or trap will only take priority in cases where the ICCAT regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel, farm or trap CPC. If it is not possible to find foreign observers with proper language skills or in case of *force majeure*, the deployment of ICCAT regional observers of the same nationality may be allowed, provided that prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat is made by the provider responsible for the ROP.
107. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the ICCAT Regional Observer and the flag, trap, and farm CPCs are detailed in **Annex 6**.

Part IV: Control measures

Section D – Transfers of live fish

General provisions

108. This section applies to all transfers as defined in paragraph 2 i) of this Recommendation.
109. In accordance with paragraph 10 c) of this Recommendation, each CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “CPC competent authority”, that shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information for the control of transfers and related transports of bluefin tuna conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPCs whose farms will cage the fish.
110. Masters of catching and towing vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their transfer activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2** (logbook).

Unique number assigned to cages

111. All cages used in transfer operations and associated transports shall be numbered in accordance with the unique numbering system referred to in paragraphs 147 to 150.

Prior Transfer Notification

112. Before the start of a transfer operation, including voluntary transfers, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates shall send to its CPC competent authority a prior transfer notification indicating, where applicable:

- the number and the estimated weight of bluefin tuna to be transferred;
- the name of the catching vessel, towing vessel(s), farm or trap, with their respective ICCAT number record;
- the date and the location of the catch;
- the date and estimated time of transfer;
- the estimated position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and the donor and receiving cage numbers;
- farm of destination;
- the name and ICCAT number of the donor farm, in the case of a transfer from the farm cage to a transport cage;
- the numbers of the two farm cages and any transport cages involved, in the case of intra-farm transfers.

Transfer authorization

113. Within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall assign and communicate to the donor operator concerned a transfer authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer authorization number shall include the three CPC letters code, four numbers for the year and three letters to indicate either positive (AUT) or negative (NEG) authorization, followed by sequential numbers.
114. The transfer operation concerned shall not start before its specific transfer authorization number has been assigned and communicated to the donor operator.
115. The transfer authorization does not prejudice the confirmation of any subsequent transfer or caging operation.
116. Voluntary and control transfers shall not be subject to a new transfer authorization.

Refusal of a transfer operation and consequent release of bluefin tuna

117. A transfer operation shall not be authorized by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator if, on receipt of the prior transfer notification, it considers that:
- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 56 of this Recommendation;
 - b) the number and weight of fish subject to the transfer has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or the trap;
 - c) the catching vessel or the trap that has caught the fish does not have sufficient quota;
 - d) the towing vessel declared to transfer and/or transport the fish is not registered in the ICCAT Record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 48 b), or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);
 - e) the farm of destination is not reported as active in the ICCAT Record of farms referred to in paragraph 63 of this Recommendation.

118. In case of refusal, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall:

- a) immediately inform the donor operator of the refusal, as well as the catch, the trap or farm CPC competent authority, if different;
- b) where applicable, issue an order to release the fish concerned into the sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

Monitoring of transfers operations by video camera

119. Except for transfers of cages between two towing vessels, which do not involve the movement of live tuna between those cages, the donor operator shall ensure that the transfer operation is monitored by video camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures referred to in **Annex 8**, to determine the number of individuals of bluefin tuna being transferred.

120. Each donor operator CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that identical copies of the relevant video records are provided without delay by the donor operator:

- a) for the first transfer operation and the eventual voluntary or control transfer, to the ICCAT regional observer and to the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the fishing trip, to the flag or trap CPC competent authority of the donor operator;
- b) for further transfers, to the CPC observer on board the donor towing vessel, to the master of the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the towing trip, to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel;
- c) for transfers between two different farms, to the ICCAT regional observer, to the receiving towing vessel and to donor farm CPC competent authority; and
- d) if a national or ICCAT inspection authority is present during the transfer operation, the inspector(s) shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record.

121. The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept onboard the donor vessel(s), by the trap(s) or by the farm(s), and remain accessible for control purposes at any time during the fishing campaign.

122. Copies of the video records shall be provided by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

123. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator and the donor operator shall retain the video footages related to transfers for at least 3 years, and keep them as long as necessary for control and enforcement purposes.

Voluntary and control transfers

124. If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards referred to in **Annex 8**, and in particular if its quality and clarity are not sufficient to determine the number of fish being transferred, the donor operator may conduct voluntary transfer(s).

125. If no voluntary transfer(s) has been carried out, or if the voluntary transfer(s) still does not permit a determination of the number of fish being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order a control transfer, which shall be repeated until the quality of the video record allows the estimation of the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.

126. The voluntary and/or control transfer(s) shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty. The number of fish obtained from the valid voluntary or control transfer shall be used to complete the logbook, the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and the relevant sections of the eBCD.

127. The separation of the transport cage from a purse seine, a trap, or a farm cage shall not occur before the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seiner, or present on the farm or trap, has carried out its tasks.
128. However, if after the voluntary transfer(s) the quality of the video still does not allow determination of the number of individuals being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator may allow the separation of the donor purse seine vessel, trap or farm from the transport cage(s). In such a case, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order the door(s) of the transport cage(s) concerned, to be sealed in accordance with the procedure set out in **Annex 14**, and require a control transfer(s) to be carried out at a determined time and place, in the presence of the flag, trap or farm competent authority.
129. In the event that the flag, trap or farm competent authorities cannot be present at the control transfer, the control transfer shall take place in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer. In this case, the responsibility for the regional observer deployment shall lie with the farm operator owning the bluefin tuna transported, who shall ensure that the regional observer is deployed to verify the control transfer.

ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD)

130. At the end of a transfer operation, the donor operator shall complete an ITD in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**. The donor operator shall transmit or make available, without delay, the ITD to its CPC competent authority, to the ICCAT regional observer where its presence is mandatory and, where applicable, to the master of the towing vessel or the farm receiving the fish.
131. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall ensure that the ITD form is numbered, using the three letters CPC code, followed by the four numbers showing the year and three sequential numbers, followed by the three letters ITD (CPC-20**/xxx/ITD).
132. The original of the ITD shall accompany the fish transferred up to the destination farm(s) where the fish will be caged:
- a) at first transfer, the original of the ITD shall be duplicated by the donor operator when a single catch is transferred from the purse seine net or the trap to more than one transport cage;
 - b) in the case of a further transfer, the master of the donor towing vessel shall update the ITD by completing part 3 (further transfers) and provide the updated ITD to the receiving towing vessel(s). The ITD shall be duplicated by the master of the donor towing vessel if the fish subject to further transfer is divided into more than one transport cage.
133. A copy of the ITD shall be kept onboard the donor catching or towing vessel(s), or by the donor trap or the donor farm, and be accessible at any time for control purposes during the duration of the fishing campaign.

Investigation by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator

134. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall investigate all cases where:
- a) there is more than 10% difference between the number of fish reported in the ITD by the donor operator and the number of fish estimated by the ICCAT regional observer, or by the CPC national observer, as appropriate; or
 - b) when the ICCAT regional observer has not signed the ITD.

The margin of error of 10% referred above shall be expressed as a percentage of the donor operator's figures.

135. Where applicable, the investigation shall include the analysis of all the relevant video footages. Except in cases of *force majeure*, the investigation shall be concluded within 96 hours of its initiation, and in any case prior to the arrival of the transport cage to the destination farm.

136. At the initiation of an investigation, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall inform the flag CPC competent authority of the towing vessel(s) concerned about the investigation, and ensure that, until the investigation is concluded, no transfer is permitted from or to the transport cage in question.
137. For all transfer operations where a video is required, a difference greater than 10%, between the number of bluefin tuna reported by the donor operator in the ITD and the number determined by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator following an investigation, shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the fishing vessel, trap or farm concerned.

Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations

138. If following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation.

Fish that die during transfer operations and associated transport

139. The number of fish that die during a transfer operation, or during the transport of the fish to the destination farm, shall be reported by the donor operator in accordance with the procedures and template set out in **Annex 11**.

Part IV: Control measures

Section E – Caging

General provisions

140. Each farm CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “farm CPC competent authority”. That authority shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC competent authorities whose flag vessels or trap caught the caged tuna.
141. Where the farms are located beyond waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC, the provisions of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for the farm are located.
142. All farm activities shall be subject to the control described in the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.
143. All CPCs involved in caging related activities shall exchange information and cooperate to ensure that the number and weight of bluefin tuna intended for caging are accurate, consistent with the catch amounts reported by the purse seine vessel or trap, and declared in the relevant sections of the eBCD.
144. Farm CPCs are encouraged to exchange experience and best practices on control and inspection related to farming activities using the pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel established by the *Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution (18-11) by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT* (Res. 19-17).
145. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that farm operators maintain at all times an accurate schematic plan of their farms, indicating the unique number of all cages and their individual position on the farm. The plan shall be made available at all times to the farm CPC competent authority for control purposes. Any modification to the schematic plan is subject to prior notification to the farm CPC competent authority. The schematic farming plan shall be adapted any time the number and/or distribution of farm cages is modified.

146. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain all the information, documentation and material related to caging activities conducted in farms under its jurisdiction for at least 3 years, and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

Unique number assigned to cages

147. Before the start of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, the farm CPC competent authority shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms under its jurisdiction, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.
148. Each cage shall be identified with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code, followed by three numbers. The unique cage numbers shall be stamped or painted on two opposite sides of the ring of the cage and above the water line, in a color contrasting with the background on which they are painted or stamped, and must be visible and legible at any time for control purposes.
149. The height of the letters and numbers shall be at least 20 centimeters with a line thickness of at least 4 centimeters.
150. Alternative methods to mark the unique number on the cage are allowed, providing they offer the same guarantee of visibility, legibility and inviolability.

Caging authorization

151. Each caging operation is subject to a caging authorization issued by the farm CPC competent authority. The following procedure shall apply:
- a) the farm operator requests a caging authorization to the farm CPC competent authority, specifying in particular the number and weight (as referred to in the ITD) of fish to be caged. This request shall be accompanied by:
 - i. the relevant ITDs;
 - ii. the eBCD(s) reference concerned, as confirmed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority;
 - iii. all the reports of fish that die during transport, duly recorded in accordance with **Annex 11**.
 - b) the farm CPC competent authority notifies the information under subparagraph a) to the relevant catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies), and asks for confirmation that the caging operation can be authorized;
 - c) within three working days, the catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies) notifies the farm CPC competent authority that the caging operation concerned can be authorized or must be refused. In the case of refusal, the flag or trap CPC competent authority shall specify the reason(s) for the refusal, and the refusal shall include the consequent release order;
 - d) the farm CPC competent authority issues the caging authorization immediately after receipt of the confirmation by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned. The caging operation shall not be authorized by the farm CPC competent authority in the absence of this confirmation.
152. No caging shall be authorized if the complete set of documentation required under paragraph 151 a) does not accompany the fish subject to the caging authorization.
153. Pending the results of the investigation referred to in paragraphs 134 to 137 conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority, the caging operation shall not be authorized and the relevant catch and live trade sections of the eBCD shall not be validated.

154. If the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization by the farm operator, the farm CPC competent authority shall order and proceed to release all the fish contained in the transport cage concerned, in accordance with **Annex 10**. The farm CPC competent authority shall accordingly inform without delay the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned, and the ICCAT Secretariat of the release.

Refusal of a caging authorization by the flag or trap CPC

155. If, on receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 151 a) the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority considers that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had insufficient quota to cover the bluefin tuna to be caged;
- b) the fish to be caged has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, and has not been taken into account for the calculation of any quota uptake that may be applicable;
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 56 of this Recommendation;

it shall determine the number of fish for which caging is refused and request without delay the farm CPC competent authority to proceed to seize the fish concerned and immediately release them into the sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

Caging operations

156. At arrival of the towing vessel in the vicinity of the farm, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:

- a) the towing vessel and cage concerned are maintained at a distance of minimum 0.1 nautical mile from any facility of the farm until the farm CPC competent authority is physically present; and
- b) the position and activity of the relevant towing vessels is monitored at all times.

157. No caging operation shall start:

- a) before it has been duly authorized by the farm CPC competent authority;
- b) without the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and the ICCAT regional observer;
- c) before the catch and live trade sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority(ies).

158. The anchoring of transport cages as farm cages, without movement of fish to allow stereoscopic camera recording is prohibited.

159. After transfer of the bluefin tuna from the towing cage to the farm cage, the farm CPC control authority shall ensure that farm cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times. Unsealing will only be possible in the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and following its authorization. The farm CPC control authority shall establish protocols for the sealing of farm cages, ensuring the use of official seals and that these seals are placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without the seals being broken.

160. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages, or series of cages, and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC of origin and catch year. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna has been caught in the context of a JFO, the catches concerned shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of the JFOs and catch year.

161. All the caging operations shall be completed before 22 August of each year, unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons, including *force majeure*. Those reasons shall be documented and reported in the caging report referred to in paragraph 188. The above deadlines do not apply in case of inter-farm transfers.

Recording of the caging operation by control cameras

162. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that each bluefin tuna caging operation in its farms is recorded by the farm operator using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras. All video footages shall comply with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**, except point 1d for stereoscopic camera footages.
163. If the quality of the control camera video footage used to determine the number and/or weight of the bluefin tuna caged does not comply with the minimum standards of **Annex 8**, the farm CPC competent authority shall order a control caging until the determination of the number and/or weight is possible. The repetition of the caging operation shall not be subject to a new caging authorization.
164. In the event of persistent turbidity conditions in the farm area, the farm CPC competent authority may authorise the control caging to take place outside the farm, in an adjacent area where there is sufficient visibility. CPCs shall document the measurement of the turbidity according to standard methods.
165. In the case of control caging, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the donor farm cage is sealed and that the cage cannot be manipulated prior to the new caging operation. The receiving farm cage(s) used in the control caging shall be empty.
166. At the completion of the caging operation, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to all stereoscopic and conventional camera video footage(s), and is allowed to make a copy if it intends to complete its task of analysing the footage at another time or place.
167. CPCs with active bluefin tuna farms and the SCRS are encouraged to participate in trials using AI, including under the framework established by *Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna* (Res. 22-07), for the analysis of stereoscopic camera footage, with a view to automating the determination of the number and/or weight of caged tuna, in order to reduce workloads and avoid possible human bias.

Fish that die during a caging operation

168. All bluefin tuna that die during a caging operation shall be reported by the farm operator, in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

Caging declaration

169. Each farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that, for each caging operation, the farm operator submits a caging declaration within 1 week after the actual caging operation has taken place, using the form set out in **Annex 12**.

Analysis of the stereoscopic video footage by the farm CPC competent authority

170. The farm CPC competent authority shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator. To carry out this analysis, the authorities shall follow the procedures set out in point 1 of **Annex 9**.

171. When there is a difference of more than 10% between the number and/or the weight determined by the farm CPC competent authority and the corresponding figures reported in the caging declaration, the farm CPC competent authority shall launch an investigation to identify the reasons for the discrepancy, and make the eventual adjustment to the number and/or weight of fish that has been caged.
172. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the farm operator's figures.
173. As soon as the technological developments are considered robust and ready for commercial scale-up, as well as the SCRS establishes the technical criteria, and guidelines for their selection, the SCRS shall evaluate the accuracy of video analysis software that incorporates AI and estimates the bluefin tuna length and provide advice to the Commission for its consideration.

Communication of caging results to the catching flag or trap CPC

174. After the completion of a caging operation or, in the case of a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, of the last caging operation associated to that JFO or those traps, the farm CPC competent authority shall send to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority the results of the caging operations referred to in **Annex 9**, point 2 under a and b.
175. Each farm CPC competent authority shall submit the procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera programme (or alternative methods) to the SCRS by 31 October annually. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission at the next Annual Meeting.

Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority

176. When, for a single catching operation, the number of bluefin tuna being caged as communicated by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 174, differs by more than 10% from those reported in the ITD or eBCD as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall initiate an investigation to determine the accurate catch weight that shall be deducted from the national bluefin tuna quota, in accordance with paragraphs 182 to 184 (quota uptake).
177. In support of this investigation, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall request all the complementary information, and the results of the relevant video footage analysis conducted in accordance with this Recommendation by the flag and farm CPCs competent authority(ies) that have been involved in the transport and the caging operation concerned.
178. All CPCs competent authorities, including those whose vessels have been involved in the transport of the fish, shall cooperate actively, including through the exchange of all information and documentation at their disposal.
179. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall conclude the investigation within 1 month from the communication of the caging results by the competent authority of the farm CPC.
180. A difference greater than 10% between the number of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel or trap concerned and the number determined by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority as result of the investigation shall constitute a PNC of the vessel or trap concerned.
181. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the figures reported by the fishing vessel master or trap representative and shall be applicable at the level of individual caging operation.

Quota uptake

182. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall determine the weight of bluefin tuna to be deducted from its national quota taking into account the quantities caged, calculated in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9**, which ensures that weight at caging is calculated based on the length-weight relationship for wild fish, and the reported mortalities, in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 11**.
183. However, for those cases where the investigation referred to in paragraph 176 concludes that bluefin tuna individuals were missing within the meaning of paragraph 2 of **Annex 11**, the weight of the missing fish shall be deducted from the national quota in accordance with **Annex 11**, by applying the average individual weight at caging communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, to the number of bluefin tuna in the catch as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.
184. Notwithstanding paragraph 183, after the consultation of the CPC competent authority(ies) involved in the transport of fish up to the destination farm, the flag or trap CPC competent authorities may decide not to deduct from the national quota the fish determined in the investigation as having been lost, when the losses have been duly documented as “*force majeure*” by the operator (i.e., pictures of the damaged cage, meteorological reports), the relevant information has been communicated to its CPC competent authority immediately after the event and the losses did not result in known mortalities.

Releases associated to caging operations

185. The determination of the fish to be released shall be done in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9** paragraph 4.
186. If the weight of bluefin tuna being caged is in excess of what had been declared as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall issue a release order and communicate it without delay to the farm CPC competent authority concerned. The release order shall follow the provisions of **Annex 9** paragraph 4, taking into account the possible compensation at the JFO or trap level, in accordance with **Annex 9** paragraph 5.
187. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with the protocol set out in **Annex 10**.

Caging report

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

Part IV: Control measures

Section F. Harvesting

189. Processing vessels intending to operate in farms or traps shall send a prior notification to the farm or trap CPC competent authorities at least 48 hours before arrival of the vessel to the farm/trap area. The prior notification shall at least include the date and estimated time of arrival and information as to whether the processing vessel already has bluefin tuna on board, and, if so, provide details on the cargo, including quantities in processed weight and live weight and details of the origin of the bluefin tuna on board (farm/trap and CPC).

190. Any harvesting operation in farms or traps shall be subject to an authorisation by the farm or trap CPC competent authority. To this end, the farm or trap operator intending to harvest bluefin tuna shall submit to its CPC competent authority a request, which shall include at least the following information:
- date or period of harvesting;
 - estimated quantities to be harvested in number of individuals and kg;
 - eBCD number associated with the bluefin tuna to be harvested;
 - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
 - destination of harvested tuna (processing vessel, export, local market, etc.).
191. Except for individuals of bluefin tuna which are close to dying, no harvesting operation shall be authorized before the results of the quota uptake in accordance with paragraphs 182 to 184 has been determined, and the associated releases have been conducted.
192. Harvesting operations shall not take place without the presence of a CPC observer in the case of traps, or an ICCAT regional observer in the case of harvesting on farms. For fish delivered to a processing vessel, the CPC or ICCAT regional observer may conduct its relevant tasks from the processing vessel.
193. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall verify and cross-check the results of all harvesting operations taking place in farms and traps under its authority, using all relevant information in its possession. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall inspect all harvesting operations of bluefin tuna destined for processing vessels and a percentage of the rest of harvesting operations based on risk analysis.
194. When the destination of the bluefin tuna is a processing vessel, the master or representative of the processing vessel shall complete a processing declaration. When the harvested bluefin tuna is to be landed directly into port, the farm or trap operator shall complete a harvesting declaration. The processing and harvesting declarations shall be validated by the ICCAT regional or CPC observer present at the harvesting operation.
195. The processing declaration and harvesting declaration shall contain at least the following information using **Annex 15**:
- date of harvesting;
 - farm or trap;
 - cage(s) number(s);
 - number of individuals harvested;
 - live weight and processed weight in Kg of the harvested bluefin tuna;
 - eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested;
 - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
 - destination of the harvested tuna (i.e., export, local market, or other);
 - validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate.
196. The processing and harvesting declarations shall be sent by e-mail to the farm CPC competent authorities within 48 hours of the harvesting operation.
197. The Commission shall consider reflecting "Processing on board" in the eBCD at its 2023 Annual Meeting. To this end, IMM WG and then eBCD TWG shall discuss the technical, administrative and control requirements and report the results to the Commission.

Part IV: Control measures

Section F – Control activities in farms after caging

Intra-farm transfers

198. Intra-farm transfer shall not take place without the authorization of the farm CPC competent authority. Each transfer shall be recorded by control cameras to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred. The video footage shall comply with the minimum standards as laid down in **Annex 8**. The farm CPC competent authority shall monitor those transfers, including by verifying the video footage and ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is recorded in the eBCD system.
199. A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the intra-farm transfer and the expected number shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of up to 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the intra-farm transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority.
200. Notwithstanding the definition of caging in paragraph 2 s), the relocation of bluefin tuna between two different locations on the same farm (intra-farm transfer) using a transport cage, shall not be considered caging for the purposes of the requirements set out in Section E.
201. During intra-farm transfers, regrouping fish of the same flag origin and the same JFO, may be authorised by the farm CPC competent authority, providing that traceability, as established in paragraph 160, and the applicability of SCRS's growth rates, are maintained.
202. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain the video footages from intra-farm transfers undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

Carry-over

203. Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons, the farm CPCs competent authority shall thoroughly assess the live bluefin tuna carried-over in the farms under their jurisdiction. To this end, the live bluefin tuna concerned shall be transferred to an empty cage and monitored using control camera(s), to determine the number and the weight of fish transferred.
204. By way of derogation, the carry-over of bluefin tuna from years and cages where no harvest occurred shall be controlled annually by applying the random control procedure referred to in paragraphs 211 to 218.
205. The live bluefin tuna carried-over shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm, on the basis of the catch year and JFO/same CPC trap of origin.
206. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the control camera video footage from the carry-over assessment transfers comply with the relevant requirements of **Annex 8**, and the determination of the number and weight of carried-over fish is in accordance with **Annex 9** point 1 of this Recommendation.
207. Until the SCRS develops an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish, the determination of the weight of the carried-over fish shall be estimated using the most updated growth rates tables produced by the SCRS.

208. A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of up to 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM by 2027 at the latest. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.
209. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain the video footage and all the relevant documentation from carry-over assessments undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

Carry-over declaration

210. Farm CPCs shall complete and transmit, as an annex to the revised farming management plan, an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation. Such declaration shall include:
- a) Flag CPC;
 - b) Name and ICCAT number of the farm;
 - c) Year of catch;
 - d) References of the eBCD corresponding to the catches carried over;
 - e) Cage numbers;
 - f) Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish carried over;
 - g) Average weight;
 - h) Information of each of the carry-over assessment operations: date and cage numbers;
 - i) Information on previous intra-farm transfers, when applicable.

The stereoscopic camera report, when applicable, shall be attached to the carry-over declaration.

Random controls

211. The farm CPC competent authority shall carry out random controls in farms under their jurisdiction. The minimum random controls referred to in paragraph 212 shall take place in farms between the time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other farm cage(s) in order that the number of bluefin tuna individuals can be counted by way of control video record(s).
212. Each farm CPC shall set a minimum number of random controls to be performed on each farm under its sovereignty. The number of random controls shall cover at least 10% of the number of cages in each farm after completion of caging operations, always involving at least one control per farm and rounded up where needed. The selection of cages to be controlled shall be based on risk analysis. The planning for random controls to be carried out shall be reflected in the CPC control plan referred to under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation.
213. Although not required, the farm(s) concerned may be informed by the farm CPC competent authority with a maximum prior notice of two calendar days that random control(s) shall take place. The selected cage(s) shall only be communicated by the farm CPC competent authority to the farm operator upon arrival at the farm concerned.
214. Where prior notice is given, farm operators shall ensure that all means are in place in order that random controls can be carried out by the farm CPC competent authority at any time, and in any cage on the farm. If prior notice is not provided, farm operators must still take all appropriate steps to facilitate the random control operations.

215. The farm CPC competent authority shall strive to reduce the timeframe between the ordering of the random controls and when the control operations is carried out. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that all necessary measures are taken to ensure that the operator does not have the possibility to manipulate the cages concerned until the random control takes place.
216. Following the random control, any difference between the number of bluefin tuna determined by the random controls and the number expected to be present in the cage shall be duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number(s). The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the control transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM at the latest by 2027. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.
217. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain all video footage from random controls undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.
218. The results of the random controls shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat before the start of the new purse seine fishing season applicable to each CPC in accordance with paragraph 28, for transmission to the Compliance Committee.

Inter-farm transfers

219. The transfer of live bluefin between two different farms shall not take place without the prior written authorisation by the CPC competent authorities of both farms.
220. The transfer from the donor farm cage to the transport cage shall comply with the requirements of Section D (Transfers of live fish), of this Recommendation, including a video record to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred, the completion of an ITD and the verification of the operation by an ICCAT Regional Observer. Notwithstanding the above, in cases where the entire farm cage is to be moved to the receiving farm, it shall not be necessary to video record the operation and the cage shall be transported sealed to the destination farm.
221. The caging of the bluefin tuna at the farm of destination shall be subject to the requirements for caging operations laid down in paragraphs 156 to 173, including a video record to confirm the number and weight of the bluefin tuna caged and the verification of the operation by an ICCAT Regional Observer. The determination of the weight for caged fish from another farm, shall not apply until the SCRS has developed an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish.

Part IV: Control measures

Section G - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

222. CPCs shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m referred to in paragraph 2 a) of this Recommendation, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for vessel monitoring systems in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 18-10), including the obligation to transmit at least once every hour for purse seine vessels and at least once every two hours for all other fishing vessels.
223. Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall, irrespective of their length, install and operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at least once every hour.

224. The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized fishing vessel subject to VMS under this Recommendation shall:

- a) start at least 5 days before and continue at least 5 days after their period of authorization, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC competent authority; and
- b) not be interrupted when the vessel is in port, for control purposes, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

225. The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform the flag CPC of any 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.

226. Referring to towing vessels during the transport of bluefin tuna to a farm, in the event of a technical failure of its VMS, the towing vessel concerned shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS. If no other towing vessel is available, a new operative VMS system shall be installed on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case of *force majeure*, that should be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. In the meantime, the master or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed, communicate to the control authorities of the flag CPC every 1 hour the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the towing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

Use of VMS data for control and inspection purposes

227. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available without delay the information received under this section G to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and to the SCRS, at its request.

228. 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 232 to 235 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08 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. 21-16).

Part IV: Control measures

Section H - Enforcement

Enforcement

229. 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 a way as 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.

230. The farm CPC shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law, that the farm does not comply with the provisions of this Recommendation.

Depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law such measures may include, in particular, suspension of the authorization or withdrawal from the ICCAT Record of bluefin tuna farming facilities established in accordance with paragraph 61 and/or fines.

Part IV: Control measures

Section I - Market measures

Market measures

231. 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 that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program* (Rec. 23-21) and the Rec. 24-16 on the 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 Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 3 are exhausted.
 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with the provisions related to farming specified in this Recommendation.

Part V: ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

232. In the framework of the Multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each Contracting Party 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**.
233. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 232 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 IMM Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Res. 00-20).
234. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10.
235. In cases where enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail in their territory, in their jurisdictional waters and on board their inspection platform.

Part VI: Final provisions

Availability of data to the SCRS

236. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with this Recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Review clause

237. In accordance with paragraph 11, ICCAT will hold an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 each year in March in order to:

- a) review, and if appropriate, endorse the annual fishing, capacity management, farming and inspection plans as well as the aquaculture plan sent to ICCAT under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation;
- b) discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and, as appropriate, propose draft amendments to it for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

Evaluation

238. All CPCs shall submit at the request of the ICCAT Secretariat 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 biennially a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna

239. The provisions in this Recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs concerned shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the following year from the CPC quota in accordance with paragraph 9.

Repeals

240. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08) and *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 23-06).

Annex 1**Specific conditions applying to the catching vessels fishing under paragraph 34**

1. CPCs shall limit:

- The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006;
- The maximum number of its small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of its vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008; with the exception of small-scale coastal vessels operating in the Gulf of Lion, whose number may increase by up to 10% compared to the number of vessels recorded in 2008;
- The maximum number of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessels 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 48 a) of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC may 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 small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean. However, in the Gulf of Lion, this percentage may go up to 4%.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels 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 the 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, which shall be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written legibly and indelibly 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 (by 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 seine vessels 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 vessels 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 transhipped 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 transhipped, 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

Name of vessel and radio call sign:

Flag:

Flag CPC authorization No.

National Register No.

ICCAT Register No.

IMO No.

Fishing Vessel

Name of the vessel and radio call sign:

Flag:

Flag CPC authorization No.

National Register No.

ICCAT Register No.

External identification:

Fishing logbook sheet No.

F.V. Master's name:

Final destination:

Port:

Country:

State:

Carrier vessel Master's name:

Day Month Hour Year: |2_|0_| | |

Departure | | | | | from | | | |

Return | | | | | to | | | |

Tranship | | | | |

Signature:

Signature:

For transshipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit | | Kg.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea Lat.	Sea Long.	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 transshipments
											Date: Place/Position:
											Authorization CPC No.
											Transfer vessel Master signature:
											Name of receiver vessel:
											Flag
											ICCAT Register No.
											IMO No.
											Master's signature
											Date: Place/Position:
											Authorization CPC 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.
- 6.

ICCAT Transfer Declaration

Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration	
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transfer authorization No.: Fishing logbook No.: JFO No.: eBCD No.:	Trap name:	1st towing vessel name:	Name destination farm:
	ICCAT Register No.:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:
		ICCAT Register No.:	
		External identification:	
		Transport cage number:	
	Donor farm name ⁽¹⁾ :	2nd towing vessel name ⁽²⁾ :	Name destination farm ⁽³⁾ :
	ICCAT Register No.:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:
		ICCAT Register No.:	
		External identification:	
	Transport cage number:		
	3rd towing vessel name ⁽²⁾ :	Name destination farm ⁽³⁾ :	
	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:	
	ICCAT Register No.:		
	External identification:		
	Transport cage number:		

2 – FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION		
Date: __/__/----		Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:
First transfer No.1 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in first cage ⁽⁴⁾ : First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ⁽⁵⁾ :	First transfer No.2 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in second cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ⁽⁵⁾ :	First transfer No.3 No. individuals and estimated weight (kg) in third cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ⁽⁵⁾ :
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature: 1st receiving vessel: 2nd receiving vessel: 3rd receiving vessel:	Observer Name, ICCAT No. and signature:
Presence of Observer: (Y/N) Estimated No. of individuals Regional Obs: Seals Numbers ⁽⁶⁾ :	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:

3 – FURTHER TRANSFERS ⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾				
First transfer number:				
FURTHER TRANSFER 1				
Date: __/__/____		ITD number:		Place or position:
Port:		Lat:		Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization No.:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) ⁽⁴⁾ :			Number of BFT that died during transfer:	
Further transfer:				
Voluntary transfer:				
Control transfer:				
In case of voluntary or control transfer:				
i. Information on the receiving towing vessel:				
Name:				
Flag:				
ICCAT Register No.:				
External identification:				
ii. Transport cage number:				

FURTHER TRANSFER 2				
Date: __/__/____ ITD number			Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:	
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization no:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
N° individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) ⁽⁴⁾ Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:	

FURTHER TRANSFER 3						
Date: __/__/____ ITD number			Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	Name destination farm:		
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:	ICCAT Register No:		
Transfer authorization No.:		External identification:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:		
			Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:		
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) ⁽⁴⁾ Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:			

(1) To be completed in case of transfers between two different farms.

(2) To be completed if the catch is transferred to more than one transport cage.

(3) To be completed in case the transport cages are destined for more than one farm.

(4) Number of individuals and weight estimated by the donor operator for the transfer considered valid. In case the operation has to be repeated, indicate as N/A in the relevant row (e.g. in case the first transfer and voluntary transfer did not provide an adequate video: First transfer: N/A, voluntary transfer: N/A, control transfer: 1030 pieces, 123,600 kg).

(5) Number of individuals that died and estimated weight.

(6) To be completed by the ICCAT Regional Observer in case the transport cage is to be sealed in accordance with paragraph 128 and **Annex 14**.

(7) To be completed by the master of the donor towing vessel for each of the transfers between towing vessels, which take place after the first transfer.

(8) This section shall be completed for each first transfer. If more than one first transfers are divided into multiple transport cages, the master of the donor towing vessel shall duplicate the original ITD so that one copy of the ITD will accompany the cage(s) for the same destination farm.

Annex 5**Joint Fishing Operation (JFO)¹**

<i>Flag CPC</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Start date of authorization of joint operation</i>	<i>End date of authorization joint operation</i>	<i>Duration of the operation (total no. of days)</i>	<i>Identity of the operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
									<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date:

Validation of the flag CPC:

¹ See **Attachment 1**.

Observer Programmes CPC Observer Programme

1. The CPC observer tasks shall be, in general, to monitor the compliance of fishing vessels and traps with this Recommendation.
2. When deployed on board a catching vessel, the CPC observer shall record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - i. their own estimation of the number and weight of bluefin tuna catches (including by-catch);
 - ii. disposition of the catch, such as retained on board, discarded dead or released alive;
 - iii. area of catch by latitude and longitude;
 - iv. measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.) as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears;
 - v. date of catch;
 - vi. verify consistency of entries made in the logbook with its own catch estimation.
3. When deployed on a towing vessel:
 - a) in the event of a further transfer involving movement of fish between two transport cages:
 - i. without delay, analyze the video footage of the further transfer concerned, to estimate the number of individuals that have been transferred;
 - ii. communicate immediately to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel his/her observations, including the number of individuals estimated by the CPC observer and the corresponding number reported on the ITD by the master of the donor towing vessel; and
 - iii. include the results of its analysis in its observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel.
 - b) record and report in its observer report all bluefin tuna observed dead during the transport trip;
 - c) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures; and
 - d) communicate the observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel without delay at the end of the towing trip.
4. When deployed on a bluefin tuna trap:
 - a) verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the trap CPC competent authority;
 - b) validate the information in the processing and/or harvesting declarations made by the master or representative of the processing vessel or the trap operator.
5. In addition, the CPC observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on recommendations of the SCRS.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

- Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels to deploy an ICCAT regional observer, as referred to in paragraph 101.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall appoint the ICCAT regional observers before 1 April or as soon as practical each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme. An ICCAT regional observer card shall be issued for each observer.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the ICCAT regional observer and the master of the vessel, farm, or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Qualification of the ICCAT regional observers

- The ICCAT regional 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;
 - the ability to analyze video record footage;
 - to the extent possible, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, the vessel, the farm or the trap observed.

Obligations of the ICCAT regional observers

- The ICCAT regional 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 ICCAT Secretariat;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations conducted by the purse seine vessels, the farms and the traps, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition to be appointed as an ICCAT regional observer.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the ICCAT regional observer is assigned.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the ICCAT regional observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel, farm and trap personnel set forth in this **Annex**.

Tasks of the ICCAT regional observer

- The ICCAT regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

General tasks

- i. observe and monitor compliance of the bluefin tuna fishing and farming operations with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- ii. carry out such scientific work, such as collecting samples or Task 2 data, as required by the Commission, based on the recommendations of the SCRS;
- iii. sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- iv. verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
- v. exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

As regards purse seine vessels or trap catching activity

- vi. observe and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
- vii. observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;

As regards first transfers from a purse seine vessel or trap to transport cage(s)

- viii. record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
- ix. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in a transfer;
- x. review and analyze all the video footages related to the transfer operation concerned, where applicable;
- xi. estimate the number of fish transferred and record the result in the ITD;
- xii. issue a daily report of the transfer activities of purse seine vessels;
- xiii. record and report upon the result of such analysis;
- xiv. verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization referred to in paragraph 112, in the ITD referred to in paragraphs 130 to 133, and in the eBCD;
- xv. verify that the ITD referred to in paragraphs 130 to 133 is transmitted to the master of the towing vessel or to the representative of the farm or trap;
- xvi. in relation to control transfers, verify the seals identification number and ensure that the seals are placed in such a way to prevent the opening of the doors without the seals being broken;

As regards caging operations

- xvii. review the camera video footages at caging to estimate the number of fish caged, in due time to allow the farm operator to complete the related caging declaration;

As regards verification of data

- xviii. verify and certify the data contained in the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, including through the analysis of video records;
- xix. issue a daily report of the purse seine vessels', farms' and traps' transfer activities;

- xx. sign the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, with clearly written name and ICCAT number, when the relevant operation is in accordance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures and the information contained within these documents is consistent with his/her observations. In case of disagreement, the ICCAT regional observer shall indicate his/her presence on the relevant ITD and caging declarations and/or the eBCD concerned, and the reasons of disagreement, quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that in his/her view has(ve) not been respected;

As regards releases

- xxi. as regards releases before caging, observe and report on the release operation from the purse seine net or the transport cage, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**;
- xxii. as regards releases after caging, observe and report on the prior segregation of fish and the subsequent release operation, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**, including verifying that the quality of the video footage of the prior segregation satisfies the minimum standards of **Annex 8** and estimating the number of fish released;
- xxiii. in both cases, verify the release order issued by the competent authority and validate the information in the release declaration made by the donor or farm operator;

As regards harvesting operation in farms

- xxiv. verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the farm CPC competent authority;
- xxv. validate the information in the processing and harvesting declarations made by master or representative of the processing vessel or by the farm operator;

As regards reporting

- xxvi. register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS;
- xxvii. 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;
- xxviii. submit the aforementioned general report to the provider responsible for the ROP, for subsequent transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
- xxix. in cases where the ICCAT regional observer observes a potential non-compliance with an ICCAT Recommendation, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the provider responsible for the ROP who shall forward it without delay to the flag, trap or farm CPC competent authority concerned, and to the ICCAT Secretariat. For this purpose, the provider responsible for the ROP shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
- xxx. obtain, as far as possible, evidence (i.e. photos, videos) of potential non-compliance detected and attach them to his/her report.

Obligations of the flag, trap and farm CPCs

- The flag, farm and trap CPCs shall ensure that, notably, the ICCAT regional observer:
 - a) is allowed access to the purse seine vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages equipment, and stereoscopic camera and conventional video camera footage;
 - b) upon request and in order to carry out their duties set forth in this Programme, is allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned:
 - i. Satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii. Radar display screens when in use;
 - iii. Electronic means of communication.
 - c) is provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) is 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
- The flag, trap and farm CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an ICCAT regional observer in the performance of his/her duties.
- The ICCAT Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag, trap or farm CPC, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The ICCAT Secretariat shall submit the ICCAT regional observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.
- The flag, farm or trap CPC competent authority where the ICCAT regional observer is providing his/her services, may request that the observer be replaced if they have evidence that the ICCAT regional observer does not meet its obligations or adequately carry out the tasks set out in this Recommendation. Any such cases shall be reported to Panel 2.

Fees and organization

- The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and the purse seine vessel owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program, and paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- No ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap or farm for which the fees, as required under this **Annex**, have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the 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;
 - r) not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more.

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 of this **Annex**, 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 amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities* (Rec. 23-16), 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 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 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 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 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 of this **Annex** 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 meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more. For compliance with the requirements of boarding ladders, a transitional period is allowed for vessels operating in the Atlantic, until January 2024.

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.

* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

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 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/she may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the 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 inspection reports with apparent infringements 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. CPCs deploying inspection vessels under this scheme shall submit each year by 15 September in relation to activity occurring between 1 January and 31 December of the previous year a list of the inspections carried out in the form to be provided by the Secretariat.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per *Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings* (Rec. 19-09) 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 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 Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her 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 CPC.
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

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS</p> <p>ICCAT</p> <p>INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD</p> </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 120px; height: 110px; margin-top: 20px;"></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Contracting Party: _____</p> <p>Inspector Name: _____</p> <p>Card No.: _____</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Issue Date: _____</p> <p>Validity five years</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;">  <p>ICCAT</p> </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection 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 solid black; height: 20px;"></div> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>CPC Authority</p> <p>Inspector</p> </div>
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Annex 8**Minimum standards for video recording procedures
applicable to transfer, caging and/or release operations**

1. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall ensure that the following procedures apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and/or release operations referred to in this Recommendation:
 - a) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, where requested, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorization number or release order shall be displayed;
 - b) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
 - c) The video record shall be continuous without any interruptions and cuts, and cover the entire transfer, caging and/or release operation;
 - d) Before the start of the transfer, caging and/or release operation, the video record shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and, for transfers and caging operations, show whether the receiving and donor cage(s) already contain bluefin tuna;
 - e) The video record shall be of sufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released;
 - f) A copy of the video record shall be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization to operate;
 - g) The distribution of copies of the video records shall follow the provisions referred to in paragraphs 120 to 123 of this Recommendation;
 - h) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be immediately provided to the ICCAT regional and/or CPC national observer after the end of the transfer, caging and/or release operation. The ICCAT regional observer and/or CPC observer shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
2. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

Insufficient quality of the video record

3. If the video record is of insufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released, the operation shall be repeated until the quality of the video is adequate, following the procedures below:
 - a) for a transfer, the transfer operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 124 to 129 of this Recommendation (voluntary and control transfers). This voluntary or control transfer shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty.

For those transfers where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the voluntary transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer;
 - b) for a caging operation, the caging operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 163 and 165 of this Recommendation.

The new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty;
 - c) for releases, the segregation of the fish to be released shall be repeated in accordance with the release Protocol set out in **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

1. Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish for length measurement shall not be below 20% of the number 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. Validation of the stereoscopic individual length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- iv. 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.
- v. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS using the length-weight relationship for wild fish shall be used to convert the fork length into weight, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- vi. The margin of error for determining weight, inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vii. 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). The SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.

2. Caging results

At the completion of a caging operation, or the complete set of caging operations under a JFO or under the traps of the same CPC/EU Member State, the farm CPC competent authority shall communicate the following information to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority:

- a) a technical report related to the stereoscopic camera system, which shall contain in particular:
 - 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;
 - the algorithm used to convert length into weight;
 - the margin of error of the stereoscopic camera system used. In the case where the camera software does not have an automatic method to calculate this margin of error, it shall be calculated as detailed in points 1 to 4 of the **Appendix** to this **Annex**.

- b) a factual report related to the caging operation, which shall contain in particular:
- detailed results of the sampling programme, with the total number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, and the size and weight of every fish that was sampled;
 - the relevant caging declarations;
 - indication of cases where discrepancies of more than 10% between the number of individuals being caged and the number reported as caught on the ITD require investigation by the flag or trap CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 176, and cases where the caging results indicate that catch is not in line with paragraphs 33 to 35;
 - general information on the caging operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, eBCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic camera system operation and footage filename;
 - comparison between the amounts declared in the eBCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic camera system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System} - \text{eBCD}) / \text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$).

3. Caging Report

The caging report referred to in paragraph 188 of this Recommendation shall include:

- a) the caging results referred to in point 2;
- b) the relevant reports of the release operations, conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**;

4. Use of the outcome of the stereoscopic camera systems

By applying the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system used, the farm CPC competent authority shall determine the range (lowest and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, in accordance with point 5 of the **Appendix** to this **Annex**.

When receiving the results of the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footage and the range (lower and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, the catching flag or trap CPC/EU Member State competent authority shall take the following measures:

- a) apply the following measures as regards releases and adaptation of the eBCD sections for catching vessels operating within the framework of an individual fishing operation (outside a JFO);
 - i. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is within the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
 - no release shall be ordered;
 - the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
 - ii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
 - a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results;

- the release operations shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in **Annex 10**;
 - after the release operations took place, the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the eBCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the stereoscopic camera system), and average weight accordingly.
- b) ensure that for any relevant modification of the eBCD, 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 not be higher to those in Section 2.

5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps

1. Decisions consequent to differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic camera system programme shall be taken by the flag or trap CPC competent authority:
 - a) based on comparison between the total of the weights resulting from the stereoscopic camera system programme of all the bluefin tuna caging operations from a JFO / traps, with the total of the weights of catches declared by vessels participating in that JFO or by those traps and, in the case of JFOs and traps involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State;
 - b) at the level of the caging operations for JFOs involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/EU Member State competent authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
2. In case of compensation of differences in weight between what has been determined by the stereoscopic camera and the correspondent catch found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant eBCD shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic camera system results.
3. The eBCD related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight and the corresponding number of fish released. The eBCD related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.
4. The eBCD relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.
5. CPC farm authorities may authorize the harvesting of fish from some of the cages, after analysing the videos of those cages and before the completion of the verification of all cages from that JFO. To proceed, the eBCD of the cage to be harvested shall be adjusted within the lower range of the results of the stereoscopic camera system. Any discrepancy from the initially declared quantity will be taken into account when analysing all data from that JFO.

Appendix to Annex 9

**Method for the calculation of a margin of error
and range of the stereoscopic camera system**

In accordance with what was agreed at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (March 2020), the following method is applied for the calculation of the margin of error and the range of the stereoscopic camera system:

1. Calculation of the fork length (FLi) range for each sample (i) taking into account the margin of error FL provided by the system (error%):

The length range is identified for each sample (i) by $[FL_{min,i}, FL_{max,i}]$

$FL_{min,i} = FLi - (FLi * error\%)$: is the minimum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

$FL_{max,i} = FLi + (FLi * error\%)$: is the maximum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

2. Conversion of the length range to a round weight (RTW) range for each sample (i) applying the algorithm used to convert length into weight:

The round weight range is identified for each sample (i) by $[RTW_{min,i}, RTW_{max,i}]$

$RTW_{min,i}$: is the minimum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

$RTW_{max,i}$: is the maximum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

3. Calculation of the average round weight range:

the average round weight range for «n» samples is identified by

$[RTW_{average_{min}}, RTW_{average_{max}}]$

$RTW_{average_{min}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{min,i}$: is the minimum value for the average round weight range

$RTW_{average_{max}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{max,i}$: is the maximum value for the average round weight range

4. Calculation of the margin of error percentage (%) of the system:

$$\frac{(RTW_{average_{max}} - RTW_{average_{min}}) / 2}{RTW_{average}} * 100$$

$RTW_{average}$: is the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera

5. Deduction of the stereoscopic camera system range:

The range of the stereoscopic camera system is defined by:

[The lowest figure of the range, The highest figure of the range]

Previously, the total weight is calculated by multiplying the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera by the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera, i.e. $RTW_{total} = (RTW_{average} * Number\ BFT)$

Thus, the range limits are calculated as follows:

The lowest range figure = $RTW_{total} - (\text{margin of error system} * RTW_{total} / 100)$

The highest range figure = $totalRTW + (\text{margin of error system} * RTW_{total} / 100)$

Release Protocol

Issuing of release orders

1. Release orders before caging shall be issued:
 - a) by competent authority of the donor operator when, on the basis of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator refuses the transfer operation as per paragraph 117; or
 - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, in accordance with paragraph 154, the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization.
2. Release orders after caging shall be issued:
 - a) by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, following procedures in paragraph 185 to 187 it is established that the weight caged exceed that reported caught. The release order shall be notified to the farm CPC competent authority, which shall transmit it to the farm operator concerned; or
 - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, after harvest, the remaining fish is not covered by an eBCD, or when a carry-over assessment or control transfer has identified an excess of fish.

For cases under section 2 a) above, the total weight of bluefin tuna to be released shall be converted into a corresponding number of individuals by applying the average weight resulting from the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footages related to the relevant caging operation, made by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 170 of the Recommendation.

Segregation of fish prior to the release operation

3. Prior to the release from a farm cage, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:
 - the fish to be released is segregated and moved to an empty transport cage, and the transfer of the fish to the transport cage is monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**;
 - the number of fish segregated for release corresponds to the release order.
4. The prior segregation of the fish shall be conducted in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer.

Record of the release operation by video camera

5. The release of bluefin tuna from transport or farm cages into the sea shall be recorded by control camera. All release operations into the sea shall be observed by a national observer in case of releases from a transport cage before caging, or an ICCAT regional observer in case of releases after caging.

Reporting

6. For each release operation performed, the donor or farm operator responsible for the release shall complete a release report, using the template attached to this **Annex**.
7. The ICCAT regional observer shall validate the information in the release declaration. The donor or farm operator shall submit the release declaration to its authorities within 48 hours of the release operation taking place for transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat.

General provisions

8. Release operations from purse seine nets, traps or transport cages must be executed immediately after receipt of the release order.
9. Release operations from farms must be executed within 3 months of the last caging operation of the fish concerned and at a minimum distance of 10 miles from the farm. For releases of less than 5 tonnes of bluefin tuna, the farm CPC competent authority may set a shorter distance, of minimum 5 miles, for the release.
10. The master of the towing vessel or the farm operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place.
11. The farm CPC competent authority 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.
12. The provisions of this **Annex** shall not apply to release of bluefin tuna from traps as a result of lifting of the gear at the end of the activity.
13. By way of derogation from paragraph 3 first bullet, for farms directly connected to traps, the fish to be released shall be segregated and moved to an empty cage or connected trap pool. The transfer of the fish to the empty cage or to the connected trap pool shall be monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**.
14. By way of derogation from paragraph 9, the minimum distance measures shall not apply to farms directly connected to traps.

ICCAT Release Report		Document No:
1 – CATCHING/CAGING DETAILS		
Farm/catching vessel/trap/towing vessel carrying out the release:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Release order reference:		
Catching vessel(s)/trap ⁽¹⁾ :		
JFO number:		
Caging authorisation(s) number ⁽¹⁾ :		
Release cage(s) number:		
eBCD(s) reference(s):		
Release authorization number:		
2 – DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OPERATION		
Type of release ⁽³⁾ :		
Date of the operation:		
Towing vessel name:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Flag:		
Segregation of fish prior to the release operation:		
Verification cage number:		
Release cage number:		
Number of BFT individuals released:		
Weight of BFT released (kg):		
Operator name, date and signature ⁽²⁾ :		Observer name, ICCAT No., Date and signature:
Presence of Observer (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:

(1) Only for releases from farms

(2) Signature of the farm operator for releases from farms, or of the fishing vessel master for releases ordered to catching vessels or towing vessels

(3) Release after completion of caging reports (**Annex 9**, paragraph 3); BFT remaining after harvesting that is not covered by an eBCD; excess of BFT found following a control transfer or carry-over assessment.

Treatment of dead and/or lost fish

Record of dead or lost bluefin tuna

1. The number of bluefin tuna that die during any operation regulated in this Recommendation shall be reported by the donor operator in the case of transfer operations and associated transport, or the farm operator in the case of a caging operation or farming activities, and deducted from the relevant CPC's quota.
2. For the purposes of this **Annex**, lost fish refers to the missing bluefin tuna individuals that, after the potential differences detected during the investigation referred to in paragraph 176, have not been justified as mortalities.

Treatment of fish that die during the catch and first transfer

3. The bluefin tuna that die during the catch and first transfer from a purse seine vessel or trap shall be recorded in the purse seine vessel logbook or the trap daily catch report, and reported on the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and on the transfer section of the eBCD.
4. The eBCD shall be provided to the towing vessel(s) with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.
5. Section 2 shall include all individuals caught. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 (Live fish trade) and 4 (Transfer) of the eBCD (including dead individuals) shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2, after deductions of all the mortalities observed between the catch and completion of the transfer.
6. The eBCD shall be accompanied by the ITD in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
7. A split of the eBCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel or the trap if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split eBCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
8. With regard to eBCD, the 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.

Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during further transfers and transport operations

9. Towing vessels shall report, using the template attached to this **Annex**, all bluefin tuna dead during transport. Individual lines shall be completed by the master each time the dead or lost event has been detected.
10. In case of further transfers, the master of the donor towing vessel must provide the original of the report to the master of the towing vessel receiving the bluefin tuna, keeping a copy on board for the duration of the campaign.
11. At arrival of a transport cage to the destination farm, the master of the towing vessel shall deliver the complete set of reports of dead fish using the template attached to this **Annex** to the farm CPC competent authority.
12. For a given caging operation, the accumulated mortalities reported by the master of the towing vessels in accordance with points 9 to 11, shall be reported in the caging section of the eBCD by the farm operator.
13. For the purpose of the quota uptake to be determined by the flag or trap CPC, the weight of fish that die or are lost during transport shall be evaluated as follows:

- a) for dead fish
 - i. in the case of landing, the effective weight at landing shall be applied;
 - ii. in the case that the dead fish is discarded, the average weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals discarded;
- b) for fish otherwise considered as lost at the moment of the investigation referred to in paragraph 176, the average individual weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals considered as being lost, as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.

Treatment of fish that die during caging operations

- 14. The fish that die during caging operations shall be reported by the operator on the caging declaration. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the number and weight of the fish that die is reported in the relevant field of Section 6 of the eBCD.

Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during farming activities

- 15. Dead or lost fish in farms or those that disappear from farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm operator's report shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence (complaint filed about the stolen fish, damage report in case of damage to the cage, etc.). After receipt of such report, the farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or cancellation of the eBCD concerned (following the necessary developments in the eBCD system).

Reporting of fish that die during further transfers and towing operations			
Towing vessel	Name		
	ICCAT N° and Flag		
	ITD N° and Cage N°		
	Master's name		
Catching vessel(s)/trap	Name of vessel(s)/trap		
	ICCAT number and JFO N°		
	eBCDs number(s)		
Previous towing vessel (if any)	Name		
	ICCAT N° and Flag		
	ITD N° and Cage N°		
	Total number of BFT reported dead (*)		
Farm of destination	CPC / Name / ICCAT N°		
Date	N° of dead BFT	Destination of dead fish (discarded or landed)	Master's signature
TOTAL			

(*) In case of further transfers, the Master of the donor towing vessel shall deliver the original of the mortalities report to the Master of the receiving towing vessel.

ICCART Caging Declaration

ICCART Caging Declaration		Document No:	
1 - CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA			
Farm name:		Towing vessel name:	
ICCART Register number:		ICCART Register number:	
Caging authorization number:		Flag:	
Transport cage number:		JFO number:	
Farm cage number:		eBCD number(s):	
Date of caging:		Transfer declaration (ITD) number(s):	
Bluefin tuna that die during transport ⁽¹⁾ :			
2 - CAGING INFORMATION – FARM OPERATOR AND ICCART OBSERVER ⁽²⁾			
	Farm Operator		ICCART Observer
Number individuals:			
Quantities in kg:			Not applicable
Number and weight (kg) of BFT dead during caging:			
Farm operator name, date and signature:		Observer Name, ICCART No, Date and signature:	
Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:		Rules or procedure not respected:
3 - CAGING INFORMATION – CPC FARM AUTHORITIES ⁽³⁾			
Number individuals:		Quantities in kg:	
CPC authorities officer, Date and signature:			

⁽¹⁾ Total number and weight (kg) of BFT reported dead by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) which have transported the caged fish.

⁽²⁾ Quantities determined by the farm operator and ICCART observer after analysing the stereoscopic camera footage of the caging operation.

⁽³⁾ Quantities established by the CPC farm authorities for the actual caging operation when data are available.

Annex 13

Minimum Information for Fishing Authorizations

A. IDENTIFICATION

- 1. ICCAT registration number
- 2. Name of fishing vessel
- 3. External registration number (letters and numbers)
- 4. IMO number, if any

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

- 1. Date of issue
- 2. Period of validity
- 3. Conditions of fishing authorization, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this Recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	<i>From... to</i>	<i>From... to</i>	<i>From... to</i>	<i>From... to</i>	<i>From... to</i>
Zones					
Species					
Fishing gear					
Other conditions					

Procedure for sealing operations of transport cages

Prior to their deployment on a purse seine vessel, a trap, or a farm, the provider responsible for the ROP shall provide a minimum of 25 ICCAT seals to each ICCAT regional observer under their responsibility and maintain a record of the seals provided and used.

The donor operator shall be responsible for sealing the cages. For this purpose, a minimum of three seals, placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without breaking the seals, shall be put on each cage door.

The sealing operation shall be video recorded by the donor operator and shall allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have been properly placed. The video shall comply with paragraph 1 a), b), c) of **Annex 8**. The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept onboard the donor vessel(s) or the trap(s) and remain accessible for control purposes at any time during the fishing campaign. A copy of the video footage shall be made available to the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seine or on the trap, or to the national observer on the receiving towing vessel, for transmission to the CPC competent authority or regional observer present at the subsequent control transfer.

The video footage of the subsequent control transfer shall include the unsealing operation, which shall be undertaken in such a way as to allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have not been tampered with.

Annex 15**Template for a processing declaration and harvesting declaration**

Processing / Harvesting (please circle either)
Date of harvesting(d/m/y): / /
Farm / Trap (please circle either)
Cage(s) number(s):
Number of individuals harvested:
Live weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
Processed weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested:
Details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation: Name: Flag: ICCAT Registration No.:
Destination of the harvested tuna (export, local market, or other) (please circle) In case of other, please specify:
Validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate: Observer Name: ICCAT No.: Signature:

24-06

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 23-08 FOR A PILOT PROJECT FOR FARMING BLUEFIN TUNA (*THUNNUS THYNNUS*) IN THE CANTABRIAN SEA

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ICCAT has adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08), the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec. 22-16) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program* (Rec. 21-19);

RECALLING that in its 23rd Special Meeting the ICCAT Commission adopted a bluefin tuna management procedure (MP) (Rec. 22-09) intended to secure sustainable management of the bluefin tuna fishery, and provide stability and predictability for the bluefin tuna fishing activity, including for the farming sector;

NOTING an interest in exploring ways to a) farm bluefin tuna in areas other than in the Mediterranean, b) explore technological innovation for caging and farming bluefin tuna, and c) assess the feasibility of implementing the current provision on monitoring farming operation when the farm is operating in open ocean conditions;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the results of research to be undertaken on Cantabrian purse seine fishing and farming of bluefin tuna in the Cantabrian Sea could indicate the need for adjustments to relevant ICCAT measures, or the development of new ones, including the need to include additional rules to the fishing season accordingly, and/or adding or revisiting current provisions related to the monitoring and control measures of the farming activities outside the Mediterranean Sea;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The objective of the pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) (BFT) in the Cantabrian Sea is to assess the conditions for fishing and farming bluefin tuna in the Cantabrian Sea to inform the potential future development of such activities.
2. Research conducted as part of the pilot project should aim to provide answers to key questions related to fishing and farming of BFT in the Cantabrian Sea including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Assessing the functioning of technological developments of the submersible cages under extreme weather conditions.
 - Assessing that suitable schools (medium large fish) are available to purse seine vessels, in that area during the months July to November.
 - Assessing the growth and fattening of BFT in this area and exploring the potential added value of the activity, including in terms of direct fisher profits.
 - Assessing whether the monitoring and control of fishing, transfer and farming activities laid down by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 24-05) are adequate and feasible to implement.
3. The pilot project shall be carried out on a limited scale, over one year, with a limited number of individuals (i.e. 50 BFT fish).

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 28 of Rec. 24-05, the fishing season for this pilot project may be extended to 30 September.
5. The precise details of the pilot project shall be included in the 2025 annual fishing, farming and inspection plans established in accordance with paragraph 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 24-05.
6. The allocation from the CPC's national quota to the pilot project shall be specified in the annual fishing plan and shall be on a limited scale and approved by Panel 2.
7. This plan shall also include details of the control measures to be put in place to ensure that the activity is carried out in line with ICCAT rules and with this Recommendation, as well as the way these rules shall be made mandatory for operators. The plan shall be analysed, and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally (Rec. 24-05, paragraph 11).
8. The results of the pilot project shall be assessed by the Commission in 2025 to determine, in case the project delivers positive results, whether and how the commercial activity could take place beyond the pilot project stage.
9. CPCs participating in the pilot project shall submit a report on the results of the project for consideration by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and the Commission no later than the end of 2025. The report shall provide detailed information on the key questions mentioned in paragraph 2 above, as well as relevant statistical data, including the final number of BFT caught/caged and the individual length and weight of those fish at the time of capture and at the time of harvest from the cage. The report shall also identify the challenges or difficulties encountered, including regarding data collection and monitoring, control, and surveillance. In particular, the report shall include an analysis of the suitability of the current ICCAT provisions for this activity.
10. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea* (Rec. 23-08).

24-07

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON AQUACULTURE BLUEFIN TUNA

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has established a comprehensive Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for Atlantic bluefin tuna, firstly adopted in 2007, with the main aim to have effective control of the movement of bluefin tuna, strict tracking of the product from the point of capture throughout the whole operation to its final market;

ACKNOWLEDGING the critical role of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the significant influence that market dynamics exert on the fishery; includes the necessity for complementary market-related measures that have contributed to the recovery of these stocks from overfishing status;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna adopted by ICCAT in 2008, which results have now come into fruition after the recovery of the stocks and the adoption leading ICCAT to transition to a bluefin tuna Management Plan, which however requires the maintaining the same level of control on all the components involved in the bluefin tuna fisheries;

MINDFUL of the rights and obligations of port States to promote the effectiveness of management measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs);

UNDERLINING the need to establish measures that safeguard the wild bluefin tuna market by preventing loopholes in the eBCD, maintain high standards in the fight against IUU fishing, and ensure that all wild fish can be clearly distinguished from aquaculture fish;

NOTING that during the 23rd Special Meeting of 2022, the Commission was informed of several CPCs' plans to develop bluefin tuna aquaculture, either through the importation of wild bluefin tuna eggs or through full aquaculture cycles using broodstock, with this fish potentially entering the commercial market as early as 2025;

CONSIDERING the current lack of information in the eBCD system regarding the origin of fish, whether wild-caught or from aquaculture;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the potential impact of escapements of aquaculture bluefin tuna on wild stocks;

BEARING IN MIND the discussions held in ICCAT Panel 2 and the technical deliberations by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2023;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, "aquaculture" is defined as any bluefin tuna rearing activity, either through the hatching of wild bluefin tuna eggs or through full aquaculture cycles using broodstock within a controlled system, excluding short-term live storage, farming and fattening activities as defined by *Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna* (Res. 22-07) and *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 24-05).

2. Any CPC seeking to export bluefin tuna produced through aquaculture shall establish a system to distinguish between wild-caught fish including those that have been subject to short-term live storage, farming and fattening, and aquacultured fish. This system shall be detailed in an Aquaculture plan to be submitted annually to Panel 2 for its review and endorsement, as part of the reporting obligation on fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean BFT, including details on the controllability of such system. A CPC that does not submit a fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan in accordance with Recommendation 24-05 but wishes to conduct aquaculture operations for bluefin tuna, shall nonetheless submit an Aquaculture plan.
3. The Aquaculture plan stipulated in paragraph 2 above shall, in particular, include the following information:
 - i. The origin of the bluefin tuna (hatching of wild bluefin tuna eggs or complete aquaculture cycle using broodstock);
 - ii. Details on any aquaculture facilities established within waters under a CPC's jurisdiction, including the number of structures at sea and the annual farming capacity;
 - iii. The forecasts for the quantities of aquaculture bluefin tuna to be marketed for the reporting year.
 - iv. The expected number and volume of fish to be produced, expected size of fish at time of harvest, and the anticipated harvest date. The measures taken to prevent caged fish from escaping and information on any environmental impact assessment that has been carried out.
4. Bluefin tuna produced through aquaculture shall be accompanied by an eBCD, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation programme* (Rec. 23-21) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-16 amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec. 24-16). CPCs shall prohibit bluefin tuna aquaculture operators from selling or offering for sale aquacultured fish until the eBCD system has a functionality to register the fish's origin.
5. The eBCD that accompanies each bluefin tuna produced through aquaculture shall clearly identify the origin of the fish as an aquaculture product and specify the aquaculture facility involved. To facilitate this, the eBCD system rules shall be adjusted to allow the system to register the fish's origin, whether from an aquaculture facility or, if wild, from a trap or fishing vessel.
6. CPCs carrying out aquaculture activities shall endeavour to implement strict measures to ensure separation of wild and farmed bluefin tuna populations, including maintaining genetic monitoring, controlled broodstock selection, regulated hatchery practices, and enforced protocols to prevent genetic mixing.
7. The Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall endeavour to propose the necessary revisions to Recommendations 24-16 and 23-21 to incorporate the requirements of paragraphs 4 and 5 for the Commission's consideration in 2025.
8. At its meeting in 2027 the Commission shall review the implementation of this Recommendation and consider asking the SCRS to assess the potential impacts of bluefin tuna aquaculture undertaken under this Recommendation on the genetics of the wild stock and on the ecosystem.
9. ICCAT Panel 2 shall endeavour to propose to the ICCAT Commission the necessary amendments to Recommendation 24-05 to cater for the inclusion of an Aquaculture plan into the annual bluefin tuna plan.
10. Relevant provisions of Recommendation 24-05, notably paragraph 10 shall apply to aquaculture activity of bluefin tuna carried out in the ICCAT Convention area.

24-08

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION 22-05 TO ESTABLISH
A REBUILDING PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

RECALLING the 2021 Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 21-06);

NOTING the provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for conservation and management measures (Rec. 11-13) and the need to rebuild the stock and to reduce the fishing mortality for stocks overfished and subject to overfishing;

CONSIDERING that the 2021 stock assessment of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) concluded that the Mediterranean albacore stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring, and recommended a level of catch of 2,500 t to meet the Convention management objective to allow the biomass to recover to the B_{MSY} level with 60% probability by 2034;

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the 2021 stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore, the SCRS noted in its advice that there is high uncertainty regarding the characterization of stock status, in particular for fishing mortality;

HIGHLIGHTING that, according to the latest scientific advice, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the SCRS recommends preventing an increase of catches;

CONSIDERING that to prevent an increase of the fishing effort and of catches it is important to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase;

CONSIDERING that the obligation set out in paragraph 12 of Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish (Rec. 16-05) introducing a closure period from 1 October to 30 November for the longline fisheries targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), with the aim of protecting juveniles of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), should continue to be implemented by all CPCs;

ACKNOWLEDGING that paragraph 11 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 on Mediterranean swordfish foresees two alternative closure periods for this fishery and these closures also affect albacore fisheries in the Mediterranean;

ACKNOWLEDGING the socio-economic dimension of small-scale Mediterranean fisheries and the need for a gradual approach and flexibility in managing these fisheries;

RECALLING the importance that all fleets participating in Mediterranean albacore fisheries submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

CONSIDERING the outcome of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean albacore meeting held online on 9-10 February 2022;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the trilateral discussions between European Union, Egypt and Türkiye at the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, due to limited data following the adoption of the recovery plan, there is insufficient information available to assess the effectiveness of the current rebuilding plan and for the SCRS to advise on any necessary adjustments;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement a 15-year rebuilding plan starting in 2022 and continuing through 2036 with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with at least 60% probability.
2. For 2025 and 2026, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be set at 2,500 t for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean.
3. For 2025 and 2026, the following quotas shall be allocated:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
EU	2,089.93
Egypt	150.27
Libya	23
Morocco	10
Syria	1.8
Türkiye (*)	225
Total	2,500

(*) Türkiye transfers to EU any part of the unused quota up to maximum of 75 t.

4. Each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of vessels that were authorized to fish for Mediterranean albacore in 2017 under paragraph 28 of Recommendation 16-05; alternatively, in 2018 for CPCs which started to issue licenses for their fishing vessels in 2018 following the adoption of Recommendation 17-05. The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2022, the year of reference applying to them. CPCs, which used 2017 as the year of reference, may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.
5. At the latest on the 15 March of each year, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for Mediterranean albacore. CPCs shall provide this list according to the format set out in the *Guidelines for submitting data and information* required by ICCAT. If needed, CPCs shall be able to modify this list during the year by providing an updated list to the ICCAT Secretariat.
6. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all sport and recreational vessels authorized to catch albacore in the Mediterranean Sea, at least 15 days before the exercise of the activities. Vessels not introduced on this list shall not be authorized to catch Mediterranean albacore.
7. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than three Mediterranean albacore specimens per vessel per day for sport and recreational fisheries.
8. The marketing of Mediterranean albacore caught in sport and recreational fishing shall be prohibited.
9. Without prejudice to the obligation set out in paragraph 12 of Rec. 16-05, Mediterranean albacore shall not be caught (either as a targeted species or as bycatch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during either:
 - a) the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March;

b) or, alternatively, during the period from 1 January to 31 March each year.

The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2022, the closure periods of their choice.

10. CPCs shall monitor the Mediterranean albacore stock and shall submit to the Commission, at least two months before the Annual Meeting of the Commission, all relevant scientific information on catch, size and age at maturity, habitat, impact of longline fisheries in terms of catch composition, CPUE series, size distribution of the catches, and monthly estimation of spawner and recruit proportion in the catches. These data shall be submitted to the SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.
11. In 2026, or in any subsequent year identified by the SCRS in 2025 due to data limitations that prevent it from proceeding with its work, the SCRS shall provide an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of the most recent data available. It shall assess the effectiveness of this rebuilding plan and provide advice on possible amendments to the various measures within this plan. The SCRS shall advise the Commission on the appropriate characteristics of the fishing gear, the closure period in paragraph 9, as well as the minimum size to be implemented for Mediterranean albacore.
12. By the end of 2026, or any year thereafter as per paragraph 11, based on this scientific advice, ICCAT shall adopt, where necessary to comply with the management objectives, amendments to the management framework for Mediterranean albacore, including the revision of the catch limits and alternative management scenarios.
13. CPCs without quota allocations, in particular Tunisia and Algeria, whose vessels are deemed to take Mediterranean albacore as bycatch in their fisheries, are required to submit their annual catch data in accordance with SCRS requirements. Those CPCs shall take measures to ensure that these bycatches of Mediterranean albacore in the Mediterranean swordfish longline fisheries do not exceed 10% of the total catches per vessel and fishing trip. When assessing the effectiveness of this rebuilding plan, the SCRS shall take into consideration the volume of Mediterranean albacore bycatch and provide scientific advice taking into account these bycatches.
14. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs are strongly encouraged to implement, in accordance with their regulatory procedures, this Recommendation as soon as possible and before the date of its entry into force.
15. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore* (Rec. 22-05).

24-10**SWO**
**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES,
INCLUDING A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE, FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02), the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 10-02, Rec. 11-02, Rec. 16-03), and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02) as amended by the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 23-04);

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);

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY));

RECALLING the Commission's work toward the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, including efforts to develop operational management objectives, in particular, *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish* (Res. 19-14);

FURTHER RECALLING that paragraph 1e) of Rec. 23-04 called for the Commission to adopt a management procedure (MP) for North Atlantic swordfish in 2024 and apply the MP to establish the total allowable catch (TAC) for 2025-2027 and future years;

ALSO RECALLING the results of the 2022 North Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment, which showed the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (not overfished and no overfishing was occurring) in 2020;

RECOGNIZING the total allocation of fishing opportunities for North Atlantic swordfish is superior to recent annual TAC levels and that catches have been well below these levels for many years;

TAKING NOTE of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries* (Rec. 96-14);

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual TAC;

RECOGNIZING that the North Atlantic swordfish MSE incorporates a wide range of uncertainties to ensure the selected MP that has been tested through MSE meets identified management objectives concerning status, safety, stability and yield, and supports the overall objective of the Convention;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the importance of reconciling the sum of catch limits with the TAC through any increases derived from the application of the MP for the 2028-2030 management cycle;

NOTING the importance of identifying exceptional circumstances (ECs) that would result in suspending or modifying the application of the MP to remain aligned with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels catch North Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area shall implement the following conservation and management measures including the MP set out in **Annex 1** for establishing annual TACs.

Management objectives

2. The management objectives for the North Atlantic swordfish stock are:
 - a) Stock Status:
 - The stock shall have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished);
 - b) Safety:
 - There shall be a 15% or less probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 at any point during the 30-year evaluation period;
 - c) Yield:
 - Overall catch levels shall be maximized; and
 - d) Stability:
 - Changes in TAC shall be minimized, consistent with the specifications of the MP as described in **Annex 1**.

Performance measures (indicators) used to evaluate the performance of MPs for each management objective are found in **Annex 2**.

PART II
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE AND TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

3. Consistent with the management objectives specified in paragraph 2, the MCC11 MP is adopted. The MP is fully described in **Annex 1**.
4. The TAC derived from the first application of the MP is 14,769 t and shall apply in 2025, 2026, and 2027. The management cycle length shall be three years; therefore, the MP shall be applied every three years.
5. The SCRS shall apply the MP specified in **Annex 1** in accordance with the timeline set out in **Annex 3** and advise the Commission of the resulting TAC for North Atlantic swordfish for the next three-year management cycle. The SCRS shall assess the occurrence of ECs annually, and the Commission shall act in accordance with the EC Protocol once adopted pursuant to paragraph 20.

¹ Interim limit reference point (LRP) used in the MSE was $BLIM = 0.4 * B_{MSY}$.

6. The Commission shall adopt the TAC based on the outcome of the MP unless the SCRS identifies exceptional circumstances that require the Commission to take alternative management actions to remain aligned with the principles of Recommendation 11-13.

PART III CATCH LIMITS AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Catch limits

7. The annual TAC of 14,769 t for North Atlantic swordfish resulting from the application of the MP described in **Annex 1** shall be allocated as follows for the 2025-2027 management period:

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>Catch limit* 14,769 (t)</i>
European Union ¹	7,408.33
United States ²	3,907
Canada	1,880
Japan ³	842
Morocco	1,186
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom	35.67
France (SPM)	40
China	111
Senegal	250
Korea ⁴	50
Belize ⁵	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Costa Rica	75
Chinese Taipei	270

If Liberia submits a fishing plan clearly describing their North Atlantic swordfish fishery for Panel 4 to review at the 2025 annual meeting, Liberia's catch limit needs shall then be assessed for inclusion in the allocation table in paragraph 7 for 2026 and 2027.

* The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 150 t

From EU to France (St Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Japan, and Senegal, to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 50 t, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 10 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

From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t

From the United States to Costa Rica: 300 t in 2025

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

¹ 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.

² The United States 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.

⁵ 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.

8. 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 7, 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.
9. When setting catch limits under the TAC described in paragraph 8, the Commission shall take into account 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 15 September.

Underage or overage of catch

10. If the annual catch in any year exceeds the TAC specified in paragraph 4, CPCs that have exceeded their individual catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 11. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limits of all CPCs, two years following the year in which the excess occurred, on a pro rata basis of the catch limits in paragraph 7. The Commission may also consider the need for further measures, including taking into account any advice of the SCRS pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of ECs.
11. 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>
2023	2025
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028
2027	2029

However, the maximum underage that a CPC may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 7 and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.

12. 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 three-year period commencing in 2025. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits during this period, 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 three-year period. Any overages from a three-year management period, including for 2025-2027, shall be applied to the subsequent three-year management period. Any underages from a three-year management period, including for 2025-2027, may be applied to the subsequent three-year management period if so decided by the Commission.

PART IV CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for North Atlantic swordfish and ICCAT record of vessels

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 amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14). 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 per trip 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 per trip bycatch limit it allows for such vessels and the total amount of North Atlantic swordfish harvested as bycatch. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

Minimum sizes

15. 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 or less 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.
16. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 15, 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 15 kg/119 cm LJFL, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 cm 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 CPC 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.

PART V SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

17. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall 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 the 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.
18. The SCRS shall continue work on robustness tests, focusing particularly on the Climate Change scenarios and minimum size limits. The results shall be presented at the Commission no later than 2027 and, if needed, considered for future revisions of the present conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish.
19. No later than July 15, 2025, CPCs shall present to the SCRS the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases. CPCs with artisanal and small-scale fisheries shall also provide information about their data collection programs. The SCRS shall review these methodologies and, if it determines that a methodology is not scientifically sound, the SCRS shall provide relevant feedback to the CPCs in question to improve the methodologies. Once these methods are approved CPCs should update their catch reporting to incorporate these estimated dead and live discards.

PART VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

20. A review of the performance of the MP by the Commission and the SCRS shall be completed by 2030 as set out in **Annex 3** and every 6 years thereafter. The scope of the review should be to ensure the MP is performing in line with objectives and may include: updating the operating model (OM) reference grid; reconditioning the MSE OMs; retuning the existing MP; and considering the performance of alternative candidate management procedures (CMPs) within an updated MSE framework. Based on that review and subsequent SCRS advice, the Commission shall decide on future management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, inter alia, regarding TAC levels, for North Atlantic swordfish.
21. Panel 4, with scientific guidance from the SCRS, shall develop the EC protocol for this MP during one or more intersessional meetings, as needed, for review and adoption by the Commission at its 2025 annual meeting. The protocol shall become **Annex 4** of this Recommendation once adopted.
22. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02)*, the *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish (Res. 19-14)*, and the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 23-04)*.

Annex 1

**Description and formulae for calculating Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for
North Atlantic swordfish using the MCC11 Management Procedure (MP) Specifications**

MCC11

The MCC11 (Mostly Constant Catch with 11 levels) management procedure is empirical and uses a single input: the North Atlantic swordfish combined index of abundance (“the Combined Index”). The goal of the MCC11 MP is to have the catch remain as constant as possible and only increase the TAC if the Combined Index increased substantially and only decrease the TAC if the Combined Index declined substantially. This MP is tuned to achieve a 60% probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e. $SB \geq SB_{MSY}$ and $F \leq F_{MSY}$) in each of the three 10-year projection time periods (short = years 1-10; medium = years 11-20; long = years 21-30).

Abundance index

The Combined Index uses catch and effort data from 7 ICCAT CPCs and draws from both Task 2 catch and effort data and detailed catch and effort records obtained directly from some CPCs, totaling over 95% of the annual catch in the North Atlantic. The initial year of the index is 1963. The index values are in kilograms of swordfish catch per 1000 hooks. This model-based index uses a Tweedie error distribution and categorical explanatory variables: year, quarter, spatial zone, a targeting variable, and a size class variable.

The predicted year values are then standardized to a mean of 1 over the whole time series. These values are defined as I .

MP specifications

This MP uses a 3-year management cycle length. The base TAC (constant catch) is 12,600 t; this is an approximation of the constant catch that would result in at least 60% PGK.

A base TAC (TAC_{base}) is calculated as:

$$TAC_{base} = \theta 12,600$$

where θ is the tuning parameter that results in achieving a 60% PGK in the short-term. The tuning parameter for MCC11 is 0.7562.

TAC_{base} is modified by comparing the ratio of the current 3-year average of the Combined Index (I_{curr}) to a historical 3-year average of the Combined Index (I_{base}):

$$I_{rat} = \frac{I_{curr}}{I_{base}}$$

I_{base} is calculated as the average of the Combined Index from 2017-2019. The value of I_{rat} is used to determine how much the TAC_{base} should be increased or decreased if at all.

The TAC for the following management cycle is calculated as:

$$TAC_{y+1} = TAC_{base} \Delta_{TAC}$$

where Δ_{TAC} is calculated as:

$$\Delta_{TAC} = \begin{cases} 1.85 & \text{if } I_{rat} \geq 1.85 \\ 1.75 & \text{if } 1.75 \leq I_{rat} < 1.85 \\ 1.65 & \text{if } 1.65 \leq I_{rat} < 1.75 \\ 1.55 & \text{if } 1.55 \leq I_{rat} < 1.65 \\ 1.45 & \text{if } 1.45 \leq I_{rat} < 1.55 \\ 1.35 & \text{if } 1.35 \leq I_{rat} < 1.45 \\ 1.25 & \text{if } 1.25 \leq I_{rat} < 1.35 \\ 1.15 & \text{if } 1.15 \leq I_{rat} < 1.25 \\ 1.00 & \text{if } 0.75 \leq I_{rat} < 1.15 \\ 0.75 & \text{if } 0.5 \leq I_{rat} < 0.75 \\ 0.5 & \text{if } I_{rat} < 0.5 \end{cases}$$

Annex 2**Performance indicators (PIs) for management objectives**

Performance indicators (PIs) are calculated based on 80 simulations for each of the 9 operating models (OMs) for a 30-year projection under a Candidate Management Procedure (CMP).

<i>Management objectives</i>	<i>Corresponding key PIs</i>
Status The stock should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix.	PGK_{SHORT} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e. $SB \geq SB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) in years 1-10 PGK_{MED} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e. $SB \geq SB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) in years 11-20 PGK_{ALL} : Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e. $SB \geq SB_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$) over years 1-30 PNOF : Probability of not overfishing ($F < F_{MSY}$) over years 1-30
Safety There should be a 15% or less probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} ($0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$) at any point during the 30-year evaluation period.	LRP_{ALL} : Probability of breaching the limit reference point (i.e. $SB < 0.4 \cdot SB_{MSY}$) in any of years 1-30
Yield Maximize overall catch levels.	TAC1 : TAC in the first management cycle (2025-2027) AvTAC_{SHORT} : Median TAC (t) over years 1-10 AvTAC_{MED} : Median TAC (t) over years 11-20 AvTAC_{LONG} : Median TAC (t) over years 21-30
Stability Changes in TAC shall be minimized, consistent with the specifications of the MP as described in Annex 1 .	VarC : Mean variation in TAC (%) between management cycles over years 1-30

Schedule for Management Procedure (MP) implementation

Three-year management cycle

		<i>Activity</i>					<i>Data inputs</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Management cycle</i>	<i>MP run</i>	<i>MP advice implemented</i>	<i>Stock assessment</i>	<i>MSE review</i>	<i>EC evaluated</i>	<i>Combined index*</i>	<i>EC indicators</i>
2024		x					x	
2025	1		x			x		x
2026						x		x
2027		x				x	x	x
2028	2		x			x		x
2029				x		x		x
2030		x			x	x	x	x
2031	3		x			x		x
2032						x		x
2033		x				x	x	x

*The combined index may be updated every year, depending on the requirements set out in the Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (ECP).

24-11**SWO****RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR CATCH LIMITS FOR MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

RECALLING the establishment of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch reductions agreed in the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* (Rec. 16-05);

NOTING the commitments taken at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 in 2017 to respect the allocation included in the table under Appendix 7 of the meeting report, and maintain catches within the TAC;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. In complement to Recommendation 16-05, CPCs shall respect the following catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>CPC TAC allocation (%)</i>	<i>2017 Quota per CPC (t)</i>	<i>Catch limits (t)</i>
Algeria	5.238	550.000	472.330
EU	70.756	7,410.480	6,363.630
Morocco	9.952	1,045.000	896.470
Tunisia	9.597	1,007.694	865.330
Türkiye	4.200	441.000	378.700
Others	0.436	45.826	39.350
TAC		10,500.000	9,015.810*

* In addition, Egypt and Libya shall have catch limits of 125 t each. This shall not prejudice the allocation key as reflected in this table.

2. The SCRS should assess the impact of the reductions made on the recovery of the stock, as early as possible.

24-12

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 23-14 ON
MOBULID RAYS (FAMILY MOBULIDAE) CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that manta and mobula rays of the family Mobulidae (henceforth referred to as mobulid rays), are caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

NOTING that mobulid rays exhibit slow growth rates and very low fecundity, and that population growth rates are very low, making them extremely vulnerable to overfishing;

ALSO NOTING that mobulid rays are among the Chondrichthyan taxa for which there are sustainability concerns, and all mobulid species reported in the ICCAT Convention area that have been assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are suspected as meeting the criteria for “Endangered”;

CONSIDERING that all species of mobulid ray are listed under Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);

NOTING that CMS Parties “that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species”, and that several fleets operating in the ICCAT Convention area already implement measures to protect mobulid rays;

CONSIDERING that all mobulid rays are listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for which trade shall be closely controlled under specific conditions including, inter alia, that trade shall not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that comparable measures have been introduced in other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) – namely the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC; Resolution 19/03), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC, Resolution C-15-04) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC, CMM 2019-05);

FURTHER NOTING that several scientific studies presented to the SCRS in recent years indicated that ICCAT fisheries, in particular those using purse seine gear, interact with mobulid rays and that some purse seine fleets operating in the ICCAT Convention area already implement voluntarily existing best practices and procedures for the protection of mobulid rays;

ACKNOWLEDGING that mobulid rays require protection in all Oceans and that in line with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) Article 5e appropriate and consistent actions are needed for ensuring that interactions with ICCAT fisheries do not undermine the conservation status of this fish species;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS has previously advised that “Precautionary management measures should be considered for stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern, and for which there are very few data”, which could reasonably apply to mobulid rays;

NOTING that in its second performance review, in the chapter “Trends in the status of non-target species”, Panel 4 recommended that “the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertain and that their status is often poorly known”;

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 prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing or storing any part or whole carcass of all species of mobulid rays (family Mobulidae) as listed in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on fishes considered to be tuna and tuna-like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs* (Rec. 19-01) and taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook or at the vessel, in a manner that shall result in the least possible harm to the individual. CPCs should encourage their fishing vessels to implement the handling practices detailed in **Annex 1**, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew.
3. Consistent with the requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programmes* (Rec. 16-14), CPCs shall record through their domestic observer programmes the number of discards and releases of mobulid rays caught in ICCAT fisheries and, where possible, an indication of status (dead or alive). These data shall be reported to ICCAT.

Research, capacity building and cooperation

4. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research on mobulid rays in the Convention area in order to identify potential mating, pupping, nursery, feeding and overwintering areas. Based on this research, CPCs shall consider implementing appropriate management measures, such as time and area closures, to provide additional protection for mobulid rays.
5. As appropriate, the Commission and its CPCs shall, where possible, individually and collectively engage in capacity building efforts and other cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of this Recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, in the case of mobulid rays that are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of a purse seine vessel's operation, the vessel must surrender the whole mobulid ray to the responsible governmental authorities, or other competent authority, or discard them at the point of landing. Mobulid rays surrendered in this manner may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purposes of domestic human consumption.
7. Paragraphs 1-5 shall not apply to vessels operating only North of 47 degrees N or South of 47 degrees S latitude (i.e., primarily outside the geographic range of mobulid rays (family Mobulidae)).
8. The SCRS shall, in 2024, review existing data and information relating to the life history and conservation status of mobulid rays, and confirm whether they meet the definition of being a taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data. Should this be the case, the SCRS shall advise on the appropriateness of applying precautionary management measures such as a prohibition on retention. The SCRS may also identify options for future research and data collection, as well as advise on other mitigation measures.

Entry into force

9. This Recommendation shall become effective no later than 1 July 2025.

Repeal

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

Best handling practices for the safe release of mobulid rays

(Taken from WCPFC CMM 2019-05 - Conservation and management measure on mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention area)

Purse seine

Do's:

- Release rays while they are still free-swimming whenever possible (e.g., back down procedure, submerging corks, cutting net).
- It is preferable that larger rays (>60 kg), that are too large to be lifted safely by hand are brailled out of the net and released using a purpose built large-mesh cargo net or canvas sling or similar device as recommended in document SC08-EB-IP-12 (Poisson *et al.*, 2012, Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners). It is preferable that release nets or devices are prepared prior to each set.
- It is preferable that small (<30 kg) and medium rays (30-60 kg) are handled by 2 or 3 people and carried by the sides of its wings or preferably using a purpose-built cradle/stretchers while ensuring the safety of the crew.
- When entangled in netting, carefully cut the net away from the animal and release to the sea as quickly as possible while ensuring the safety of the crew.

Do not's:

- Leave a ray on deck until hauling is finished before returning it to the sea.
- Punch holes through the bodies of rays (e.g., to pass a cable or line through for lifting the ray).
- Gaff, drag, carry, lift or pull a ray by its "cephalic lobes" or tail or by inserting hooks or hands into the gill slits or the spiracles.

Longline

Do's:

- For small rays, gently bring on board and remove as much gear as possible by backing the hook out. If hooks are embedded, either cut the hook with bolt cutters or cut the line at the hook and gently return the animal to the sea.
- For medium to large rays (>30 kg), leave the animal in the water and use a de-hooker to remove the hook or a long-handled line cutter to cut the gear as close to the hook as possible (ideally leaving <0.5 meters of line attached to the animal).

Do not's:

- Hit or slam a ray against any surface to remove the animal from the line.
- Attempt to dislodge a deeply hooked or ingested hook by pulling on the branch line or using a de-hooker.
- Attempt to lift medium to large (>30 kg) rays aboard vessel.
- Cut the tail.

- Gaff, drag, carry, lift or pull a ray by its “cephalic lobes” or tail or by inserting hooks or hands into the gill slits or the spiracles.

Additional recommendation

Knowing that any fishing operation may catch rays, several tools can be prepared in advance (e.g., canvas or net slings or stretchers for carrying or lifting, large mesh net or grid to cover hatches/hoppers in purse seine fisheries, long handled cutters and de-hookers in longline fisheries).

24-13

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CONTINUING TO ENHANCE THE
DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS**

CONSIDERING scientific advice released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) as the cornerstone for establishing a proper management framework on stocks and fisheries under the purview of ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that an in depth understanding by the Commission of scientific advice and management recommendations made by the SCRS should ease the adoption by the Commission of relevant and effective conservation measures;

NOTING that the *Resolution by ICCAT on best available science* (Res. 11-17) recommends improving the communication between CPCs, the Commission, and the SCRS by enabling a constant dialogue;

RECALLING the work in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists held in June 2013 in support of the BFT-W stock assessment;

HIGHLIGHTING the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Convention objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

STRESSING that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account Target and Limit Reference points, associated level of risks and related Harvest Control Rules consistent with Recommendation 11-13;

STRESSING FURTHERMORE that such enhanced dialogue should also allow the Commission to review and provide input to the SCRS on the establishment of research priorities, considering more particularly the development of the Strategic Plan on Science, and to explore further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes;

RECALLING that provisions laid down in Recommendation 11-26 establishing a Meeting Participation Fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue;

EMPHASIZING that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the SCRS;

RECOGNIZING that the first meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) was an important step to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and managers;

NOTING that the SCRS and the Commission strongly supports the continuation of this initiative;

FURTHER NOTING that that development of harvest control rules and application of the management strategy evaluation to ICCAT fisheries is dependent upon input and guidance from fishery managers;

RECALLING the review of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020;

RECOGNIZING the work of the SCRS Workshop held in March 2024 aimed at the preparation of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2026-2031;

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Climate Change* (Res. 22-13), the *Resolution by ICCAT on next steps of the Joint Expert Group on Climate Change in 2024* (Res. 23-19), and conversations at the Joint Experts' Meetings in 2023 and 2024 that emphasized the need for close communication and coordination between the Commission and SCRS on matters related to Climate Change;

FURTHER RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments* (Res. 23-23);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) is established under the following objectives and rules.
2. The objective of the SWGSM is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists by establishing a forum to exchange views and to support the development and effective implementation of management measures and scientific work related to cross-cutting issues including, inter alia:
 - prioritization of the work of the SCRS, including efficient use of resources, the development of the SCRS annual work programme and the SCRS Science Strategic Plan,
 - the development of management strategies,
 - the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management,
 - the inclusion of Climate Change related issues in ICCAT's work, and
 - consideration of broader developments related to biodiversity conservation.

The SWGSM shall, as necessary, make recommendations to the Commission and provide feedback to the SCRS.

3. The SWGSM shall carry out this work through, inter alia:
 - a. improving 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);
 - b. promoting an efficient use of scientific resources;
 - c. identifying SCRS research priorities, taking into consideration the needs of the Commission, in particular in relation to the SCRS annual work programmes and the SCRS Science Strategic Plan;
 - d. identifying opportunities / approaches that would enhance available data relevant to ICCAT's work;
 - e. identifying possible social and economic research topics;
 - f. reviewing ICCAT's Plan of Action on Climate Change and the tracking of its implementation.
4. The SWGSM shall elect its own co-chairs, which shall consist of a fishery manager from the Commission and a scientist from the SCRS.
5. The SWGSM shall meet intersessionally and its meetings shall be open to fisheries managers of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing entities (CPCs), SCRS scientists and accredited observers. Fishery managers of the CPCs and fishery scientists of the SCRS shall be considered on an equal footing during the standing working group meetings. Other experts may be invited to specific meetings of the standing working group depending on the topics to be discussed.
6. The structure of the meetings shall include an open forum/dialogue. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of the SWGSM, which should ensure a balanced presence and an active participation of scientists and managers.
7. The SWGSM shall develop a workplan and periodically update it, as necessary. Taking into account this workplan, the Commission shall develop a schedule for future meetings of the SWGSM.

8. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers* (Rec. 14-13).

24-14

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF
OBSERVERS IN CPC OBSERVER PROGRAMMES**

UNDERSCORING that safety of life at sea is a longstanding objective of international maritime governance, that observers collect data that are essential to the functions of the Commission, and that the health, safety, and welfare of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

RECALLING that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for personnel serving onboard seagoing fishing vessels;

NOTING the commitments in international law, including the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, with regard to the development of an international maritime search and rescue plan for the rescue of persons in distress at sea;

FURTHER NOTING the obligations of CPCs to oversee the safety of its observers, as provided for in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* (Rec. 16-14);

ALSO RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs* (Rec. 19-10) and the *Resolution by ICCAT on harmonisation and improved observer safety* (Res. 19-16);

RECOGNIZING that the adoption of measures that promote the health and safety of observers in CPC programmes, particularly those related to vessel safety, could also support the objectives reflected in the *Resolution by ICCAT on core principles on labour standards in ICCAT fisheries* (Res. 23-20);

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

The following shall apply to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of observers deployed pursuant to Rec. 16-14 or any other CPC observer deployed on a flag CPC's vessel operating in ICCAT fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area in furtherance of fulfillment of the CPC's obligations under ICCAT observer requirements:

1. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that its vessels' operators and crew do not threaten, intimidate, or harm fisheries observers.
2. CPCs shall ensure that observers have received training in basic vessel safety before they are deployed on a vessel for the first time and at appropriate intervals thereafter.
3. Before deploying an observer on a vessel for a trip, CPCs shall ensure the observer has independent and unrestricted access to a two-way communication device suitable for use at sea and appropriate safety equipment, including a personal flotation device (PFDs), such as a life jacket or immersion suit, appropriate to the specific fishing operations and activities, including ocean area and distance from shore.
4. Flag CPCs shall ensure their vessels that carry observers covered by this Recommendation are outfitted with appropriate safety equipment for the entirety of each voyage, including the following:
 - a) A life raft of sufficient capacity for all persons onboard and with a certificate of inspection that is valid throughout the observer's deployment;
 - b) Fire extinguishing equipment;

- c) Personal flotation device (PFDs) of sufficient number for all persons onboard, and compliant with relevant international standards, such as, where applicable, the Cape Town Agreement, or equivalent domestic standards; and
- d) A properly registered Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART), or equivalent equipment that shall not expire until after the observer deployment ends.

CPCs may choose to exempt their vessels 12 m in length overall (LOA) or less and operating within 12 nm of the baseline from the requirements set out in 4a and 4d above if a Personal Locator Beacon is issued to the observer.

5. The CPC shall ensure that an observer is not deployed on a vessel unless and until the observer is allowed to 1) view the vessel's major spaces to ensure that no obviously hazardous conditions exist, 2) confirm the presence of safety equipment, and 3) report, as necessary, its status to the observer provider or relevant CPC authorities. CPCs shall give due consideration to any safety concerns reported.
6. CPCs shall ensure there is an established procedure for contacting and being contacted by the observer and the vessel and that this procedure provides for regularly scheduled contact with observers to confirm their health, safety, and welfare status. CPCs shall ensure there is a designated contact point for deployed observers to use in cases of emergency.
7. CPCs shall develop and implement an emergency protocol that clearly describes what actions must be taken in the event of various emergencies, including situations where an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that puts his or her health or safety at risk, has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel, or if the observer requests to be removed from the vessel prior to the conclusion of the trip.
8. Flag CPCs with vessels carrying observers covered by this Recommendation shall, subject to domestic laws on confidentiality and privacy, submit to the Executive Secretary reports on observer incidents involving serious injury, death, or in the event of an observer that is missing or presumed fallen overboard, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC. The Executive Secretary shall transmit such reports to the Commission, consistent with the Rules and Procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT, for its review at each annual meeting or, where warranted, more frequently.
9. Flag CPCs shall cooperate to the maximum extent possible with and provide for the participation of, as appropriate and consistent with domestic law, other relevant CPCs and/or non-CPCs in search and rescue operations and investigations of cases where the observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel.
10. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the exercise of discretion by the relevant CPCs' authorities not to deploy an observer on a vessel because of concerns about risk to the observer's health, safety, or welfare.
11. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the rights of relevant CPCs to enforce their laws with respect to the safety of observers consistent with international law.
12. This Recommendation shall be reviewed three years after its adoption, taking into account any guidance from FAO on standards related to fisheries observer safety as requested by the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters.

24-15

GEN

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 21-15 ON TRANSHIPMENT

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 21-15) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and there is a history of a significant amount of catch by IUU fishing vessels being transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to strengthen the monitoring of transshipment activities involving tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, in particular by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to ensure collection of catch data from such LSPLVs to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

1. All at-sea transshipment operations:

- a) within the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species; and
- b) outside the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area;

are prohibited, except that LSPLVs, defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall, may conduct at-sea transshipment under the programme established in Section 3 below. All other transshipments must take place in port.

- 2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Appendix 3** when transshipping tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in port.
- 3. CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from taking part in transshipment activities if any of the vessels involved are included in the ICCAT IUU Vessel List including vessels listed by ICCAT on the basis of listings by other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As).
- 4. This Recommendation does not apply to harpoon vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh swordfish¹ at sea.

¹ For the purpose of this Recommendation, "fresh swordfish" means swordfish that are alive, whole or gutted / dressed but not further processed or frozen.

5. This Recommendation does not apply to transshipments outside the Convention area where such transshipment is subject to a comparable monitoring programme established by another Regional Fisheries Management Organization.
6. This Recommendation is without prejudice to additional requirements applicable to transshipment at sea or in port in other ICCAT Recommendations.

SECTION 2. RECORD OF CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENTS

7. Transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized with regard to carrier vessels authorized in accordance with this Recommendation. Carrier vessels are those vessels used for fish transport. A CPC shall only authorize its carrier vessels to engage in transshipment under this Recommendation if the vessel has an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number and the CPC is satisfied with its ability to monitor the vessel's compliance with the requirements of this Recommendation.
8. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area shall be established. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in transshipment operations.
9. A vessel may not simultaneously be authorized as a carrier vessel and a fishing vessel.
10. In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag Non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels flying its flag that are authorized to receive transshipments in the Convention area. All vessels included on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels must be flagged to a CPC, except for those carrier vessels flagged to an NCP that appeared on the Record on 18 November 2024; replacement of an NCP carrier vessel with another of the same flag shall be allowed.

The list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
 - ICCAT Record Number (if any)
 - IMO number
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign
 - Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - For carrier vessels, type of transshipment authorised (i.e. in port and/or at sea)
 - Time period authorised for transshipping
11. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any changes to the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.
 12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT Record and take measures to ensure its publicity through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
 13. CPCs shall prohibit their LSPLVs from transshipping any tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species with vessels not entered on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels.
 14. Vessels without an IMO number shall not be included in the ICCAT Record of Authorized Carrier Vessels and shall be prohibited from engaging in transshipment activities.

SECTION 3. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR AND CONTROL TRANSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES

Vessel monitoring systems

15. Carrier vessels authorized for transshipment shall be required to install and continuously operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for vessel monitoring systems in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 18-10), or any successor recommendation related to VMS minimum standards, including any future revisions thereto.

Port inspection

16. Consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on port state measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17), port CPCs should prioritize inspection in port of a) carrier vessels whose VMS signals disappear under suspicious circumstances and without explanation and/or indicate dubious movements, and b) carrier vessels not entered into the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels to verify ICCAT species are not on board. Inspection of transshipment activities in port should involve the monitoring of the entire transshipment process and include a cross check of transhipped amounts by species as reported in the fishing vessel's logbook and review of the prior authorization to tranship in port issued by the flag CPC to the fishing vessel.

Separation of cargo

17. Carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments of ICCAT species shall be required to retain a copy of documentation required by paragraph 22 of this Recommendation from each fishing vessel, to separate and stow transhipped fish by fishing vessel, and develop a stowage plan to show the locations in the hold of the quantities by species and vessel. The carrier vessel master shall submit the fishing vessel documentation and stowage plan to inspectors, if requested.

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) authorized to tranship at sea

18. At sea transshipment by LSPLVs for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Section, in Section 4, and **Appendix 1 and 2** below.
19. Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to tranship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to tranship at sea.

This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number
- Time period authorized for transhipping at sea
- Flag(s), name(s), IMO number(s), and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs

Upon receipt of the lists of LSPLVs authorized to tranship at sea, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels the list of LSPLVs authorized to operate with its carrier vessels.

Coastal State authorization

20. Transshipments by LSPLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC are subject to prior authorization from that CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of coastal State prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSPLVs flying their flag comply with the provisions of this Section.

Flag CPC authorization

21. LSPLVs are not authorized to tranship at sea unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer or inspector ² when requested.

Notification obligations

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs)

22. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraphs 20 and 21 above, the master and/or owner of the LSPLV must notify the following information to its flag CPC authorities, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transshipment:
 - the name of the LSPLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
 - the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transshipments, and the product to be transhipped, by species and, if possible, by stock,
 - the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped,
 - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, to be transhipped,
 - the date and location (latitude and longitude) of transshipment,
 - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.

The LSPLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, not later than 5 working days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels in accordance with the format set out in **Appendix 1**³.

Carrier vessels

23. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the flag CPC of the LSPLV, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, along with its number in the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transshipment, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment. For transshipments that take place at sea, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall also transmit the transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat.
24. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before the first point of landing, transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing is to take place.
25. Anytime a carrier vessel on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels provides supply services to another vessel in the Convention area, the master of the carrier vessel shall complete a supply declaration and send it by electronic means to its flag CPC and the ICCAT Secretariat 24 hours in advance of the activity. The supply declaration shall include, at a minimum, the following information: Name and ICCAT record number of vessels involved, date and location (latitude and longitude) of the activity, content of the goods supplied, and name and ICCAT vessel record number (if assigned) of the vessel being supplied. A separate supply declaration is not required when the supply activity is conducted in association with transshipment that is monitored by an ICCAT Regional Observer.

² “Inspector” refers to inspectors of a CPC’s competent authority authorized to conduct inspections under *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on port state measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17), *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 24-05), *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* (Rec. 16-05), or any successor Recommendations, including any future revisions thereto, as well as any other Recommendation establishing a Joint Scheme of International Inspection that may be established in the future.

³ **Appendix 1** replaces the transshipment declaration form in Rec. 21-15 and Ref. 22-19.

26. The carrier vessel shall notify the ROP, when the observer embarks, of the anticipated port where the ICCAT managed species will be offloaded.

Availability of reports

27. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish the documents received pursuant to paragraphs 21 and 23 in the secure part of the ICCAT website for the facilitation of implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17).

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

28. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer programme specified in **Appendix 2**. The ICCAT observer shall observe the adherence to this Recommendation, and, notably, that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration and, as feasible, as recorded in the fishing vessel logbook.
29. CPCs shall prohibit vessels from commencing or continuing transshipping at sea in the ICCAT Convention area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of force majeure duly notified without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly notify the Commission.

SECTION 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS

30. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Catch and Statistical Document Programmes:
- a) In validating the Catch or Statistical Documents, flag CPCs of LSPLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the catch amount reported by each LSPLV.
 - b) The flag CPC of LSPLVs shall validate the Catch or Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Programme and any other relevant information.
 - c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Catch or Statistical Document Programmes caught by LSPLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the area or territory of a CPC, be accompanied by catch or statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipment declaration.
31. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transshipments shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:
- The quantities of tuna and tuna-like catches by species (and, if possible, by stock) transhipped during the previous year.
 - The quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, transhipped during the previous year.
 - The list of the LSPLVs and carrier vessels flying its flag which have transhipped during the previous year.
 - A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSPLVs.

These reports shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration. The Secretariat shall post these reports to a password protected website.

32. All tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with those species landed in or imported into the area or territory of CPCs, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

33. The flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transshipments, and the coastal CPC, where applicable, shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Recommendation to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings of each vessel, including in cooperation with the landing State as necessary. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
34. At its request, and subject to ICCAT confidentiality requirements, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) shall have access to the data collected under this Recommendation.
35. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission, which shall include any issues of potential non-compliance. The Commission, through the Compliance Committee, shall, inter alia, review compliance with this Recommendation. As part of this review, the Commission should also consider any information provided pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information* (Rec. 08-09) or regarding transshipment or supply activities conducted by vessels not on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels.
36. The Commission shall, no later than 2027, review this Recommendation and consider improvements taking into account, as appropriate, relevant standards, specifications, and requirements that have been or may be adopted by the Commission.
37. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 21-15) and the *Document number on transshipment declaration* (Ref. 22-19).

Declaration number:

Carrier vessel					Fishing vessel				
Vessel Name and radio call sign:					Vessel Name and radio call sign:				
Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:					Flag CPC:				
Flag State authorization number:					Flag CPC authorization number:				
Domestic Registration Number:					Domestic Registration Number:				
ICCAT Record Number:					ICCAT Record Number, if applicable:				
IMO Number:					IMO Number, if any:				
Vessel owner name and address:					External identification:				
					Vessel owner name and address:				
Departure	Day _ _	Month _ _	Hour _ _	Year 2_ 0_ _ _	Agent's name:	Fishing vessel Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:		
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	from _ _ _	Signature:	Signature:	Signature:		
Transshipment	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _ [Min] _ _ _					
Transshipment Position _____/_____(N/S), _____/_____(E/W)									
Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: _ _ kilograms									

[illegible]

(In the case of Force Majeure, please indicate that transshipment was unobserved)

² A list of species by stock, with their geographic delineations, is available [here](#). Please provide as much detail as possible.

* If stock level information is not available, please provide explanation.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area and which tranship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.
2. The ICCAT Secretariat shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area from LSPLVs flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT observer program.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure observers are properly equipped to perform their duties, including with appropriate safety equipment.

Designation of the observers

4. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - demonstrated ability to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear with a strong preference given to those with experience as observers on pelagic longline vessels;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

Obligations of the observer

5. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) to the extent possible, not be nationals or citizens of the flag CPC of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 6 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat;
 - e) not be a crew member of the LSPLV or the carrier vessel or an employee of the LSPLV or carrier vessel company.
6. The observer shall monitor the LSPLVs and carrier vessel's adherence to the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. The observers' tasks shall be, in particular, to:
 - 6.1 Visit the LSPLV intending to tranship to a carrier vessel, taking into account the safety concerns reflected in point 10 of this Appendix, and before the transshipment takes place, to:
 - a) check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with those species in the Convention area;
 - b) inspect the fishing vessel's prior authorizations to tranship at sea from the flag CPC and, if appropriate, the coastal State;
 - c) check and record the total quantity of catch on board by species and, if possible, by stock, and the quantities to be transhipped to the carrier vessel;
 - d) check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook and verify entries, if possible;
 - e) Verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check the documentation on such transfers, including the stowage plan;
 - f) in the case of indication that there are any violations involving the LSPLV, immediately report the violation(s) to the master of the carrier vessel (taking due regard of any safety considerations) and to the observer programme implementing company, who shall promptly forward it to the flag CPC authorities of the LSPLV; and
 - g) record the results of these duties on the LSPLV in the observer's report.

6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:

- a) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
- b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
- c) observe and estimate quantities of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped by species, if known, and, if possible, by stock;
- d) the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known;
- e) verify and record the name of the LSPLV concerned and its ICCAT record number;
- f) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration, including through comparison with the LSPLV logbook, where possible;
- g) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
- h) countersign the transshipment declaration; and
- i) observe and estimate quantities of product by species when offloaded in the port where the observer is disembarked to verify consistency with quantities received during at sea transshipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

- a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
 - b) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with the observer's duties and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
 - c) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
 - d) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
7. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSPLV and of the LSPLV owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
 8. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag CPC and, where relevant, the coastal State, which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
 9. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 11 of this programme.

Responsibilities of the flag CPC of the LSPLV

10. When a flag CPC is notified of potential non-compliance by its LSPLV that has engaged in transshipment activities pursuant to this Recommendation, the flag CPC shall investigate, including requesting any relevant port CPC to inspect the carrier vessel upon arrival in port, and take appropriate action.

Responsibilities of the flag CPCs of carrier vessels

11. The conditions associated with implementation of the regional observer programme *vis à vis* the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels and their captains include the following, notably:
 - a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel, pertinent documentation, and to the gear 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 point 6:
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) VMS
 - iv) electronic means of communication; and
 - v) scale used for weighing transhipped product.
- 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;
- e) Observers shall be allowed to determine the most advantageous location and method for viewing transshipment operations and estimating species/stocks and quantities transhipped. In this regard, the master of the carrier vessel, giving due regard to safety and practical concerns, shall accommodate the needs of the observer in this regard, including, upon request, temporarily placing product on the carrier vessel deck for inspection by the observer and providing adequate time for the observer to carry out his/her duties. Observations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes interference and avoids compromising the quality of the products transhipped.
- f) In light of the provisions of point 12, the master of the carrier vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels should weather and other conditions permit such an exchange; and
- g) The flag CPCs shall ensure that captains, crew 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 flag CPC of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the flag CPC of the LSPLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports (covering the information and activities of both the fishing and carrier vessels) to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Responsibilities of LSPLVs during transhipments

- 12. Observers shall be allowed to visit the LSPLV, if weather and other conditions permit, and shall be granted access to personnel, all pertinent documentation, VMS and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in point 6 in this Appendix. The master of the LSPLV shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and LSPLV. Should conditions present an unacceptable risk to the welfare of the observer such that a visit to the LSPLV is not feasible prior to the start of transshipment operations, such operations may still be carried out.

Observer fees

- 13. The costs of implementing this programme shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSPLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the programme. 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.
- 14. No LSPLV may participate in the at-sea transshipment programme unless the fees, as required under point 13, are paid.

Information sharing

15. To facilitate information sharing and, to the extent possible, harmonization of at-sea transshipment programmes across relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, all training materials, including observer manuals, and data collection forms developed and used to support implementation of ICCAT's at-sea transshipment regional observer programme shall be posted on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Identification guides

16. The SCRS shall work with the ICCAT Secretariat and others as appropriate to develop new or improve existing identification guides for frozen tuna and tuna-like species. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that these identification guides are made broadly available to CPCs and other interested parties, including to ICCAT regional observers prior to deployment and to other Regional Fisheries Management organizations running similar at-sea transshipment observer programmes.

In-port transhipment

1. In the exercise of their authority over ports located in areas under their jurisdiction, CPCs may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with domestic and international law.
2. Pursuant to Section 1 of this Recommendation, transhipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species from or in the Convention area may only be undertaken in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17) and the following procedures:

Notification obligations

3. *Catching fishing vessel*

- 3.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transhipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify the port State authorities of the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transhipment.
- 3.2 Fishing vessels are not authorized to tranship in port unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to an inspector ¹ or ICCAT observer when requested.

In seeking prior authorization, the captain of a fishing vessel shall inform its flag CPC of the following:

- the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped;
 - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped;
 - the date and place of the transhipment;
 - the name, registration number, ICCAT record number, and flag of the receiving carrier vessel; and
 - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.
- 3.3 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC the ICCAT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in **Appendix 1** not later than 5 working days after the transhipment.

4. *Receiving carrier vessel*

- 4.1 Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transhipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transhipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.
- 4.2 The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, at least 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transhipment declaration to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

¹ "Inspector" refers to inspectors of a CPC's competent authority authorized to conduct inspections under *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17).

Port and landing State cooperation

5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above points shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Appendix, including in cooperation with the flag CPC of the fishing vessel as necessary, to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

Reporting

6. Each flag CPC of the fishing vessel shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

24-16

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 22-16 AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 21-18 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 programme;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD 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 programme 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 review in 2017 of the relevance of specific derogations and their associated deadlines;

ACKNOWLEDGING that due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19 it has been difficult to have substantive discussions on conservation and management measures in particular a meaningful review of the provisions laid down in paragraphs 5 b) and 5 d) of this Recommendation which both expire on 31 December 2024;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the discussions held during the Annual Meetings from 2017 to 2024, where the European Union submitted the Annual Report to the ICCAT Working Groups, providing the required information on the specified European Union derogation, which demonstrates the excessive administrative burden and the unlevel playing field that these validation requirements would create.

**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 Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) 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 by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation programme* (Rec. 23-21) shall 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 programme 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 23-21, 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 23-21; however, in derogation to Recommendation 23-21, 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 shall 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 23-21.

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 the 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. 23-21.

The derogation in this paragraph shall be applicable from 1 January 2025. The European Union shall report to the Commission on the implementation of this derogation by 1 October each year of the derogation, and while the statistics contained in this report cannot be generated by the eBCD system, and made automatically available to all the ICCAT Commission and CPCs for their consultation. 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.

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 23-21 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 23-21. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by paragraph 99 of Recommendation 18-02¹ 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 23-21 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 23-21 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programmes 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;

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which was replaced by Rec. 21-08, which has been replaced by Rec. 22-08, which has been replaced by Rec. 24-05.

- 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 *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02)¹, CPCs may instead provide the approximate weight of individual fish within the catch upon offloading, which is determined through averaging the total landing weight over the number of individual fish;
- 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 86 to 102 of Recommendation 18-02¹ 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 bycatch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 18-02¹ 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 shall be issued. Flag CPCs of the vessels concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.
- g) The requirement in paragraph 13 b) of Recommendation 23-21 providing that BCDs may only be issued when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPC shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs.
- h) 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 shall include the data elements listed in **Annexes 1 and 2** unless otherwise decided to address future data collection needs.
- i) 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.
- j) 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 programme 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 programme applicable to them.
- k) To the extent possible, reports generated from the eBCD system shall fulfill the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 23-21. CPCs shall also continue to provide those elements of the annual report that cannot be produced from the eBCD system. The format and content of any additional reports shall 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 23-21) 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 5 h).
 - 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 j) 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 23-21 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 23-21.

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 CDS WG 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 18-02¹ and clarifies and amends Recommendation 23-21.
9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec. 22-16).

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

Annex 3

**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 shall 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 shall 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 shall 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 shall consider appropriate actions, including possible referral to the Compliance Committee, if appropriate.
- F. The procedures set forth above shall be reviewed in 2019 and revised, as appropriate.

Appendix

- Date
- CPC
- BCD(s) concerned
- Summary of issue
- Date of resolution
- Incidence number (if available)

24-17

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE APPLICATION OF
THE INTEGRATED ONLINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IOMS)**

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19) adopted by the Commission in 2016, and all of the benefits of developing an integrated online reporting system noted therein;

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 21-20) adopted by the Commission in 2021;

CONSIDERING the progress made to date by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and the Secretariat to develop the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and the utility of the system to enhance compliance with ICCAT reporting requirements;

NOTING that ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) acknowledged in its 2022 report the importance of the IOMS project on the future of ICCAT and recommended that the Commission continue to support its development;

DESIRING to continue to find ways to enhance the effective functioning of the Commission, including by reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and increasing access to valuable information;

MINDFUL that IOMS was released into production in August 2021, and that CPCs were encouraged to submit various sections of their 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports using IOMS;

HIGHLIGHTING that the Secretariat has offered multiple trainings and additional assistance to facilitate the use of IOMS;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. All CPCs shall, as soon as possible, submit to the Secretariat the information necessary to ensure the registration of the users with Administrator rights (CPC Administrator role) for IOMS. Access to and use of IOMS cannot occur for those CPCs who fail to register at least one Administrator.
2. Beginning in 2023, CPCs shall submit the relevant portions of their Annual Report (Section 3, Part 1 and Part 2) directly into IOMS. Submission of these portions of the Annual Report in other formats shall no longer be accepted by the Secretariat.
3. Notwithstanding Paragraph 2, upon exception granted by the Chair of the Compliance Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the WG-ORT and the Secretariat, CPCs may request assistance from the Secretariat to complete reporting requirements offline for upload into IOMS by the Secretariat. These requests for exception must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the respective reporting deadline, with CPCs indicating the difficulties encountered on the utilization of IOMS. Such requests for exception, including the difficulties encountered by CPCs, shall be circulated to the Commission. The Secretariat shall include in its report to the Compliance Committee for the Annual Meeting a summary of requests and exceptions pursuant to this paragraph.
4. CPCs may communicate to the Secretariat and the WG-ORT their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation including any difficulties experienced and identification of potential improvements to functionalities to enhance IOMS implementation and performance. The Commission may consider these recommendations to further develop the system.

5. As detailed in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 21-20), the WG-ORT shall continue its work and as new modules are developed in IOMS, CPCs shall be required to submit the relevant information using the dedicated IOMS modules as they become available.
6. This Recommendation supplements *ICCAT's Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (Ref. 23-24) and repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System* (Rec. 22-17).

Resolutions adopted by ICCAT in 2024

24-02

TRO

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON INTERIM OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR ATLANTIC BIGEYE TUNA, YELLOWFIN TUNA, AND THE EASTERN STOCK OF SKIPJACK TUNA

ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures (MPs), which the Commission has recommended for tropical tunas and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete a multi-stock management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Atlantic bigeye, yellowfin, and the eastern stock of skipjack tunas by 2026 at the latest;

RECOGNIZING that operational objectives are the key foundational component of any MSE;

SEEKING to advance the development of MPs, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

ACKNOWLEDGING that, given the mixed-stock nature of these fisheries, the Commission will need to review the initial management objectives and consider trade-offs with respect to the yield and stability of three tropical tuna stocks, taking into account SCRS advice;

NOTING the added value of adopting interim operational management objectives for tropical tunas for the purpose of developing, testing, and refining candidate MPs for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. Management objectives should be established for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference point (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna. The SCRS will advise on final LRPs for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tunas.
3. The following interim operational management objectives should be considered for the purpose of developing, testing and refining candidate management procedures:
 - a. Stock Status: Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna should each have a 50% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe phase plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished) during the XX-year projection period (as determined by the SCRS);
 - b. Safety: Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna should each have a 15% or less probability of falling below the limit reference point at any point during the XX-year projection period;

- c. Yield: Overall catch levels should be maximized to the extent possible with respect to each stock of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern skipjack tuna¹;
 - d. Stability: Any change in total allowable catch (TAC) between consecutive management periods for each stock of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and eastern skipjack tuna should be no more than a 25% increase or a 25% decrease.
- 4. In the development of the operating models for the multi-stock tropical tunas MSE, the Commission calls on the SCRS, consistent with paragraph 75 of *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 24-01), to evaluate the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g., purse seine, longline, and baitboat) on the whole range of the stock, including on juvenile mortality and yield at MSY, as well as other impacts of these fisheries, including impacts on bycatch, ecosystem impacts and socio-economic impacts.
 - 5. These interim operational management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
 - 6. Panel 1 will provide its recommendations to confirm or amend the management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna, considering SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure at its 2026 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. Panel 1 should consider whether the management objectives should be the same for the three stocks or if an asymmetric approach for each stock be more appropriate.
 - 7. This Resolution will be repealed upon adoption of management procedures for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna by the Commission.

¹ The SCRS shall use yields over the short (e.g., 1-3 years), medium (e.g., 4-10 years), and long (e.g., 11-20 years) terms as primary performance indicators to evaluate this management objective.

24-09

ALB

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL
OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR SOUTHERN ATLANTIC ALBACORE**

RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt management procedures (MPs) tested through management strategy evaluation (MSE¹) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT concerning the use of a precautionary approach in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the southern Atlantic albacore stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING the conclusions of the 2020 stock assessment conducted by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which indicated that the southern Atlantic albacore stock is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY));

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are a key foundational component of any MSE and provide specific and measurable targets, with associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the substantial progress made on the MSE work for those priority species identified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

CONSIDERING that the Commission desires to adopt an MP for southern Atlantic albacore no later than 2029;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Management objectives should be established for southern Atlantic albacore tuna consistent with the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. To facilitate development of an MSE for southern Atlantic albacore, the following initial operational management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status
 - The stock should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix over a 30-year projection period;

¹ The SCRS should use 40% of the spawning stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as the interim B_{LIM} for southern Atlantic albacore tuna, or advise on a different value, if appropriate.

- b. Safety
 - There should be no greater than 15% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 at any point during the 30-year projection period;
 - c. Yield
 - Maximize overall catch levels; and
 - d. Stability
 - Any changes in total allowable catch (TAC) between management periods should be 20% or less.²
3. The SCRS should use a 3-year management cycle for initial development of the MSE.
 4. The initial operational management objectives (paragraph 2) may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 3, and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS Albacore Species Group for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
 5. Panel 3 will provide its recommendations for final management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore, considering the SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure no later than at its 2029 Annual Meeting.

² Asymmetric stability limits may be evaluated in the MSE.

ANNEX 6

Other decisions adopted by ICCAT in 2024**6.1 Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2024**

This schedule is intended to guide the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07) (North Atlantic albacore, North Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas). It builds on the initial roadmap that was appended to the 2016 Annual Meeting report, which has been revised regularly based on the SCRS advice and Commission decisions. It provides an aspirational timeline that is subject to revision and should be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule that is revised annually by the SCRS. Due to the amount of cross-disciplinary dialogue that may be needed, intersessional Panel meetings and/or meetings of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) will be necessary. However, the exact timeline for delivery is contingent on funding, prioritization, and other work of the Commission and SCRS. Tasks are divided into four categories: Commission intersessionally, SCRS development, SCRS implementation, and Commission at Annual Meeting.

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2025	Commission intersessionally			<p>COMM (PA4) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) to provide guidance to the SCRS on how to handle: trade-offs in species yields; changes in effort over time; changes in gear use over time; changes in closure periods over time; and, variable allocations over time (and therefore changes in geospatial effort and gear type over time).</p> <p>COMM (PA1) to meet intersessionally, with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss CMPs, operational management objectives, and performance indicators - refine CMP(s) - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators <p>Ambassadors' meetings to be held.</p>	Ambassadors' meeting to be held.		

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2025	SCRS development	<p>SCRS to finalize the grid of reference and robustness OMs based on Stock Synthesis as part of a new MSE.</p> <p>SCRS to finalize the improvement of the Observation Error Model.</p> <p>SCRS to test the adopted MP on the new reference uncertainty grid.</p> <p>SCRS to test alternative candidate MPs (e.g., based on JABBA model, or empirical).</p>		<p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA4) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 4 in consultation with the SCRS.</p> <p>The SCRS to continue to develop robustness scenarios, as requested by COMM.</p>	SCRS to finalize MSE results, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1.	<p>SCRS to finalize MSE results, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1.</p> <p>SCRS to develop climate change scenarios to test robustness of MPs.</p>	<p>Secretariat to compile and share necessary catch data for Stock Assessment by April per the workplan.</p> <p>SCRS to establish an ALB-S MSE Technical Team.</p>	

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2025	SCRS implementation	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol. SCRS to advise COMM of the TAC for 2026-2028 that results from the MP.	Should a final EC protocol be ready well in advance of the SCRS annual meeting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with that protocol.				

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2025	Commission at Annual Meeting		COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.	COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol.		COMM to consider final evaluation of CMPs, and adopt an MP, including the TACs, at the Annual Meeting.	COMM (PA3) will be informed and provide feedback on SCRS work.	<p>The SCRS shall inform the Commission, by 2025 on the feasibility, cost and options for developing an MSE framework. In this work, the SCRS should discuss and list the main sources of uncertainty, from the last assessment, that should be considered in the MSE.</p> <p>The Commission shall discuss operational management objectives, and performance indicators for CMPs.</p>

<p>2026 and beyond*</p>	<p>Commission intersessionally</p>	<p>PA2 will provide guidance to SCRS on updated management objectives and performance statistics.</p>				<p>In 2026, SCRS to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.</p>	<p>(2027): COMM (PA3) at an intersessional Meeting to review draft MSE results and narrow down CMPs.</p>	<p>(2026): SCRS to finalize the uncertainty grid and OM conditioning. Discussion and testing what variables should be in the reference grid and which should be considered as robustness tests.</p> <p>(2026-2027): SCRS to work on CMP development no later than 2026. A selection of CMPs with the best performance, as per COMM management objectives, should be selected by 2027.</p> <p>(2026-2027): COMM (PA4) to meet intersessionally, with SCRS participation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discuss CMPs, operational management objectives, and
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		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2026 and beyond*								<p>performance indicators;</p> <p>- refine CMPs;</p> <p>- recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators.</p> <p>Ambassadors' meetings to be held.</p>

<p>2026 and beyond*</p>	<p>SCRS development</p>	<p>SCRS to test alternative candidate MPs (e.g., based on JABBA model, or empirical).</p> <p>SCRS to complete new MSE in 2026.</p>	<p>SCRS to review the MP in 2027-2028 as outlined in Rec. 22-09.</p>	<p>The SCRS to review the MP on a pre-determined schedule, as defined by COMM.</p>	<p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA1) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 1 in consultation with the SCRS.</p>	<p>In 2026, SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA1) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 1 in consultation with the SCRS.</p>	<p>SCRS to conduct a stock assessment using Stock Synthesis 3.</p> <p>SCRS to agree on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major sources of uncertainty to be considered in the MSE; - MSE framework structure; - Reference and robustness set of operating models; <p>SCRS to incorporate feedback from COMM/PA3.</p> <p>(2027): SCRS to condition operating models</p> <p>SCRS to start testing CMPs</p> <p>SCRS to incorporate feedback from COMM/PA3.</p>	
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		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2026 and beyond*							<p>(2028): SCRS to finalize testing CMPs.</p> <p>SCRS to communicate results to PA3.</p> <p>(2029 and beyond) SCRS to engage with PA3 on discussion on path for final MP selection</p> <p>SCRS to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol (ECP).</p>	

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2026 and beyond*	SCRS implementation	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>SCRS to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process that provides, inter alia, guidance on range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.</p> <p>(2027): SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stocks.</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate the existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol.</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock.</p>	<p>(2029 and beyond): SCRS to evaluate application of exceptional circumstances, to the extent possible.</p>	

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>	<i>South Atlantic Albacore</i>	<i>Blue Shark</i>
2026 and beyond*	Commission at Annual Meeting	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, COMM to consider adoption of new MP in 2026.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting.</p> <p>COMM to review the MP in 2028.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>	<p>COMM to adopt an MP, including the TACs.</p> <p>COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol in 2027 as a new Annex in MP.</p> <p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TACs on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale for MP setting.</p>	<p>COMM (PA3) will be informed and provide feedback on SCRS work.</p> <p>(2027): COMM (PA3) to evaluate list of CMPs.</p> <p>(2028): Provide advice to SCRS on any final changes.</p> <p>(2029 and beyond): COMM (PA3) to adopt MP and ECP as a new Annex in MP.</p>	<p>(Nov 2027 or 2028): COMM to adopt an MP.</p> <p>(2028): SCRS and COMM to finalize the EC protocol, to be adopted from this point forward.</p>

* Assumes that the workplan is accomplished as described.

LIST OF ACRONYMS:

BET = Bigeye tuna
BFT = Bluefin tuna
COMM=Commission
CMP = Candidate Management Procedure
HCR = Harvest Control Rule
MP = Management Procedure
MSE = Management Strategy Evaluation
OM = Operating Model
SCRS = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics
TAC = Total Allowable Catch
TRO = Tropical tunas

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

RECOGNIZING that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- a) is responsible for maintaining populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;
- b) science underpins the management decisions made by ICCAT;
- c) 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 and that ICCAT may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations;
- d) cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations should aim, *inter alia*, to obtain best available scientific information and exchange of scientific knowledge, to further the attainment of the objectives of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

- a) has the mission to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals;
- b) exists to promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea, to advance the scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, including its living resources;
- c) seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organizations and initiatives having related objectives;
- d) has the vision to be a world-leading marine science organization.

RECOGNIZING the mandatory powers, constraints and obligation under which ICCAT and ICES respectively operate, in particular with respect to rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data adopted by the two Organizations;

DESIRING to put in place a framework for mutual cooperation;

Proposed areas of cooperation

Establish cooperation on relevant science topics, including the establishment of joint activities to increase exchange and cooperation between ICCAT and ICES working groups, including to:

1. maintain reciprocal consultation and regular contacts on matters of common interest in the fields of Atlantic fish species, fisheries scientific research, climate change, ecosystem impacts on fisheries and the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem;
2. whenever necessary exchange information and documents of current and planned activities, including workshops, symposia and projects, in areas of common interest;
3. consult and engage regularly on ways in which cooperation between the Parties can be further improved and extended, including joint activities like workshops, symposia and the development of subsidiary bodies, including joint working groups, in areas of common interest;
4. collaborate on the assessments for fish stocks of mutual interest, including but not limited to elasmobranchs, facilitating consistency between both organizations;
5. cooperate and exchange data and knowledge relating to fisheries, assessment methods, management strategy evaluation (MSE), climate change, data management, quality assurance and advisory processes;
6. invite reciprocal representation, in observer capacity, of ICCAT and ICES representatives at their meetings, as appropriate;
7. collaborate in other areas as decided by both Parties.

Financial implications

This Agreement neither binds ICCAT nor ICES to provide funds or other resources, of their own property or that of others, nor does it impede the signing of similar agreements with other organizations. Both ICCAT and ICES may request financial support from third parties, in a joint or individual manner, to proceed with cooperation in projects and activities. Both ICCAT and ICES may bilaterally establish defined contracts for services from one another or jointly develop projects to deepen cooperation.

Modification

The contents of this Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Parties.

Discontinuation

This Memorandum of Understanding should be reviewed every 5th year. Either Party may discontinue this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months prior written notice to the other Party.

Any notice or other communication to ICCAT under this Agreement shall be in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int) and addressed to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, Calle Corazón de Maria 8, planta 6, 28002 Madrid, Spain.

Any notice or other communication to ICES under this Agreement shall be in writing to the ICES Secretariat (info@ices.dk) and addressed to the ICES President, H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46, DK 1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark.

Signed on behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

Signed:

Date:
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Signed:

Date:
General Secretary
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

6.3 Updated Memorandum of Understanding between the CCSBT¹ and ICCAT² Secretariats for transshipment at sea by Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels (LSTLVs)

Introduction

1. The ICCAT has adopted a Recommendation³ and implemented a program for transshipment at sea by large-scale longline pelagic fishing vessels (LSTLVs)⁴ within the ICCAT Convention area. The CCSBT has adopted a similar Resolution⁵ for tuna longline fishing vessels with freezing capacity that applies globally to all transshipments involving southern bluefin tuna (SBT). Each Secretariat is in charge of administering the program within its jurisdiction.
2. The two Commissions have overlapping jurisdiction in the Atlantic Ocean, where the CCSBT Resolution and ICCAT Recommendation are almost identical and most vessels that are required to comply with the CCSBT Resolution are also required to comply with the ICCAT Recommendation.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established to minimise the duplication of work and to minimise the associated costs for those that are required to comply with both the CCSBT Resolution and ICCAT Recommendation.

Scope of this Memorandum of Understanding

4. This MOU applies to transshipments at sea involving southern bluefin tuna (SBT) within the ICCAT Convention area, by LSTLVs with freezing capacity that are Members/Contracting Parties (CPCs)⁶ of both CCSBT and ICCAT and is further restricted to CPCs that are participating in both CCSBT's and ICCAT's regional observer program.
5. CCSBT and ICCAT will notify each other of any changes in their Members/CPCs that may affect the application of this MOU.

Arrangement between CCSBT and ICCAT

6. All provisions of the ICCAT transshipment Recommendation will continue to apply to transshipments at sea that fall within this arrangement.
7. All provisions of the CCSBT transshipment Resolution will also apply to transshipments at sea that fall within this arrangement, except that:
 - a) To enable a single Transshipment Declaration form to be completed for transshipment by an LSTLV, an ICCAT Transshipment Declaration form may be used instead of the CCSBT Transshipment Declaration form. This only applies while the ICCAT and CCSBT forms remain compatible unless there is agreement to the contrary. Furthermore, transmission of this form by Carrier Vessel masters to the ICCAT Secretariat is deemed to also be a transmission to the CCSBT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat will transmit these documents to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
 - b) ICCAT Register Numbers for LSTLVs and Carrier Vessels may be used instead of the CCSBT equivalents. The CCSBT Secretariat will conduct the necessary conversions between ICCAT and CCSBT registration numbers.

¹ Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

² International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

³ At the time of the latest update to this MOU, the current *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 21-15).

⁴ Rec. 21-15 refers to large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), while the CCSBT Resolution refers to large scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLVs). This MoU is understood to cover both sets of vessels in their respective contexts.

⁵ Resolution on establishing a program for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.

⁶ "Members" includes Cooperating Non-Members and "CPCs" includes Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities.

- c) To enable a single set of Transshipment Observers to be used, ICCAT Transshipment Observers will be deemed to be CCSBT Transshipment Observers providing these observers meet the standards established in the CCSBT Transshipment Resolution and providing that the CCSBT Secretariat is informed. In no case will ICCAT Transshipment Observers be required to observe transshipments outside of the ICCAT Convention area.
 - d) The Consortium that operates the ICCAT program will issue a second report dealing exclusively with transfers that include SBT (i.e. omitting any transfers where no SBT were transhipped) from vessels subject to this MOU. Transmission of such Observer Reports by the Transshipment Observer to the ICCAT Secretariat is deemed to also be a transmission to the CCSBT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat will re-transmit these documents to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
 - e) CCSBT is considering⁷ the introduction of a requirement to provide a supply declaration anytime an authorised carrier vessel provides supply services to another vessel at sea that has SBT on board. Supply declarations have been a requirement in ICCAT since 2022 and these are published on the secure part of the ICCAT website.
 - f) Should CCSBT introduce a requirement for supply declarations, then an ICCAT Supply Declaration form may be used instead of the CCSBT Supply Declaration form. This only applies while the ICCAT and CCSBT forms remain compatible, unless there is agreement to the contrary.
8. The combined effect of paragraphs 6 and 7 is that the ICCAT Secretariat and Transshipment Observers will continue to follow the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation with the additions that:
- a) The ICCAT and CCSBT Secretariats will advise each other regarding any planned or actual changes to their Recommendations/Resolutions for at sea transshipment including the Transshipment Declaration form.
 - b) The ICCAT Secretariat will transmit copies of Observer Deployment requests, Transshipment Declarations and Observer Reports for all transshipments involving SBT to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
 - c) In addition to the experience and training required by the ICCAT Transshipment at sea Recommendation, ICCAT Transshipment Observers that observe transshipments of SBT will have sufficient experience and knowledge to:
 - identify southern bluefin tuna; and
 - have a satisfactory knowledge of the CCSBT conservation and management measures.
 - d) An up-to-date list of ICCAT Transshipment Observers will be maintained and annually provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by the ICCAT Secretariat.
 - e) When ICCAT is informed that an observer deployment will involve transshipments of SBT, ICCAT will notify CCSBT prior to dispatching the observer so that the CCSBT Secretariat can check the validity of authorisations of the Fishing Vessels and Carrier Vessels against the published list of CCSBT Authorised Fishing Vessels and CCSBT Authorised Carrier Vessels respectively.
 - f) To support CCSBT in their consideration, and potential introduction of, Supply Declarations, the ICCAT Secretariat will provide to nominated and authorised staff within the CCSBT Secretariat, access to the supply declaration data held on the secure part of the ICCAT website. The access to, and use of, this data by CCSBT shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT and the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the CCSBT.

⁷ Currently proposed to be considered at CCSBT 32 in 2025 taking into account the effectiveness of the supply declaration introduced in ICCAT.

- g) In addition to tasks specified in the ICCAT Transhipment Recommendation, Transhipment Observers that observe transhipments of SBT will:
- Conduct checks on the Fishing Vessel intending to tranship in accordance with section 6 a) i) of Annex 2 of the CCSBT Transhipment Resolution.
 - Certify the transhipment verification section of the CCSBT CDS documentation to indicate that the transhipment details (date, name and registration of carrier vessel) were filled in correctly and that the transhipment of product was observed according to the CCSBT Transhipment Resolution⁸.
9. Additional costs imposed on the ICCAT observer program resulting from this MOU will be covered by CCSBT. The costs associated with additional training, additional reports, and insurance required for observers, will be calculated by the Consortium that operates the ICCAT program and transmitted to the CCSBT Secretariat via the ICCAT Secretariat. The CCSBT Secretariat will be responsible for recovering these costs from the CPCs concerned.
10. The ICCAT and CCSBT Secretariats will cooperate to improve the efficiency of the sharing of data that is covered by this MOU, provided that it remains consistent with the provisions of this MOU and each organisations respective procedures and data and confidentiality rules.
11. This MOU comes into effect for twelve months from the date of entry into force noted below. It will be automatically renewed for another twelve months each year, unless otherwise decided by either the CCSBT or ICCAT Secretariat and informed to the other in writing. Either of the Secretariats may terminate the MOU at any time by written notice to the other Secretariat.
12. This MOU replaces that signed on 1 July 2015 from the date of its entry into force.
13. Date of entry into force: _____

Signed and duly dated:

Dominic Vallières
Executive Secretary
Commission for the Conservation of Southern
Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of
Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Date:_____

Date:_____

⁸ A discrepancy between the stated product on the CDS document and the quantities recorded by the observer would be recorded in the observer's report (not the CDS document) and would not prevent the observer from signing the CDS document.

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 13 November 2024 by its Chair, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted with changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

4. Reports from the Secretariat

4.1 2024 Administrative Report

The “2024 Administrative Report” was presented by the Executive Secretary. He informed that Costa Rica had deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on 7 June 2024, and therefore the Commission was composed at that time of 53 Contracting Parties.

The Executive Secretary summarised the report which included, among other things, information on the entry into force of Recommendations adopted in 2023; the intersessional meetings held; the training courses provided; meetings in which ICCAT was represented (the summaries of those meetings are available for consultation in Annex 1 to the Administrative Report); the tagging lottery that was held during the SCRS; the letters sent to CPCs concerning ICCAT financial obligations; the publications issued in 2024; as well as the 20 programmes and funds managed by the Secretariat.

He then provided a summary of the main changes in staff at the Secretariat during the year 2024.

He informed that in January 2024, Ms. Stasa Tensek took up the post of Officer to support the coordination of the ICCAT Research and Data Collection Programmes, after having worked as Assistant Coordinator of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) since 2015.

Mr Carlos Mayor became Head of the Department of Statistics following the voluntary separation from service of Mr Carlos Palma, and, in March 2024, Mr Fabio Fiorellato was hired as ICCAT Biostatistician. Two Software Developers were engaged for work within the IOMS framework under contracts 80% financed by the European Union: Mr Aitor Elorriaga in March 2024 to develop the UN/FLUX system for vessels data exchange, and Mr Dashiel Portel in June 2024 to develop the vessels manager module of the IOMS. As agreed by the Commission at the 2023 annual meeting, both developers become part of the ICCAT staff at the conclusion of each contract.

As for the Department of Information Technology (IT), Mr Álvaro Fúster was hired as IT Specialist Technician in May 2024.

The Executive Secretary informed that following the retirement of Ms. Jenny Cheadle, a significant restructuring had taken place within the Department of Compliance. Mr Alberto Parrilla was appointed Head of the Department of Compliance and Dr Valérie Samedy moved into his previous position as Compliance Officer, leaving vacant the post of VMS Manager/Technical Officer. The vacancy announcement

to fill this position was circulated at the end of May 2024 and following the selection of candidates, a contract was signed with Mr Felix Mergarejo Dremova, who began his duties at ICCAT on 11 November 2024.

Finally, the Executive Secretary informed that Mr Fabio Fiorellato had notified the Secretariat of his intention to resign from his position as Biostatistician as of 25 November 2024. Following his notice, the Secretariat offered the position to the second-ranked candidate from the original selection process, Mr Bruno Deprez. Mr Deprez began his duties at the ICCAT Secretariat on 11 November 2024.

The 2024 Administrative Report was adopted.

4.2 2024 Financial Report

The Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, Ms. María Bonacasa, presented the “2024 Financial Report”. She noted that, on 11 October 2024, the Working Capital Fund stood at 78.85% of the total budget, and that the expenses incurred and revenue received represented 68.41% and 85.16% respectively, of the budget approved for 2024.

Moreover, she indicated that the expenses estimated by the Secretariat at year-end would total €2,351,717.37 and that, if no new revenue was received before the end of the current financial year, the Working Capital Fund would stand at 38.35% of the budget (€2,227,174.15).

CPCs welcomed the presentation but noted that the late availability of the financial report prevented delegations from being able to fully review the report and identify any questions. CPCs urged the Secretariat to make this document available well in advance of future Commission meetings. Some clarifications were requested from the Secretariat regarding the interpretation costs for intersessional meetings, and a request was made for improved planning and rescheduling of the meeting calendar, to avoid cancellation of meetings, and the associated costs that this entails.

The 2024 Financial Report was adopted.

4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights

The STACFAD Chair presented the document “Detailed information on the accumulated debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and review of payment plans of past-due contributions”, which reflected the accumulated debt of Contracting Parties by year, including the latest payments received from Ghana, Russia, South Africa and Uruguay. The STACFAD Chair indicated that the total debt of the Contracting Parties amounted to €1,964,360.96, which posed a great risk to the activities of the Secretariat and the Commission.

Several CPCs expressed concern with the continuing high level of arrears and the significant delays in the payment of a number of CPCs’ accumulated debt. CPCs requested details about any payment plans in place for the Contracting Parties in arrears. The Chair explained that no CPCs currently had an active payment plan.

Gabon, Panama and Venezuela provided updates on their efforts to address their outstanding ICCAT debts.

5. Assistance to developing CPCs

5.1 Review of procedures and funding for the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

The Head of Administration and Finance presented the document “Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)” which included information on the financial situation of the MPF and reflected the revenue and expenses of this fund during 2024.

She explained that this fund is partly financed through the ICCAT regular budget, Chapter 13.b, as well as through voluntary contributions from CPCs. She also indicated that the total amount in the fund for 2025 would be €450,000.00, of which €250,000.00 was proposed to come from the regular budget.

The European Union (EU) enquired whether there were any requirements for participating in meetings held in hybrid format, noting that in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), additional rules applied to applicants seeking funding to attend hybrid meetings in person.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the rules applicable to the MPF (*Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-14 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 20-09)) did not make a distinction between Commission meetings held in-person only, versus in hybrid format. Applicants for participation in scientific meetings must provide a detailed description of the applicant's contribution to the meeting, which must be approved by the Rapporteur(s) of the relevant Group(s) and the SCRS Chair. For non-scientific meetings, the only limitation related to the total number of in-person representatives from the applicant's Contracting Party. Participation was subject to the approval of the Commission Chair, the STACFAD Chair, the Executive Secretary, and for subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding was being requested.

Algeria and Tunisia requested an increase in the number of representatives financed per delegation for the annual meetings of the Commission, as additional advisory support was needed at these meetings.

The STACFAD Chair requested that Contracting Parties, in addition to identifying such issues, submit concrete proposals to be considered within the framework of the Virtual Working Group on Review of Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP) and submit them to STACFAD the following year.

5.2 Funding mechanisms for other capacity building activities

The Chair of STACFAD recalled that the Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) was established in 2013 to support scientists from developing Contracting Parties in acquiring knowledge and building capacity in scientific institutes and/or research centres of other CPCs. The Chair of STACFAD requested that Parties evaluate the usefulness of this fund so it could be reviewed at the 2025 annual meeting.

6. Review of the outcomes of the Virtual Working Group on the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP)

The conclusions of the *Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP)* (online, 4 June 2024) chaired by the Commission Chair, were submitted to STACFAD for review and adoption. STACFAD reviewed the draft "Guidelines for the election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies", which had been developed by the VWG-RRP and made additional modifications to adjust the terminology and align the dates of the process. A revised version of the document was subsequently adopted and is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**.

7. Review of the outcomes of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)

The Chair of STACFAD presented the *Report of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)* (online, 26 June 2024), summarizing key decision points forwarded by the VWG-SF regarding the format and content of the annual budget presentation and options to manage the expenses and administrative burdens associated with the annual meeting and intersessional meetings. She also noted the discussions related to the functioning of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), and the Council.

STACFAD recommended that the VWG-SF should continue working on three issues during 2025: 1) modifying the budget presentation format, which would include an assessment of each chapter through comparison with previous years; 2) modifying the rules governing the MPF with the aim of managing both the logistical challenges and costs; and 3) continuing to explore options to reduce the annual meeting costs and/or identify potential additional sources of funding.

8. Institutional arrangements regarding the Secretariat

8.1 Information on staff pension fund and future actions needed

The Executive Secretary presented a revised version of the document “Report on the Secretariat Pension Plan” and explained that, following a ruling of the Supreme Court of Spain in late 2022, lump-sum pension payments under the ICCAT Pension Plan made to the staff members of any nationality with tax residence in Spain in the Professional category are subject to income tax when the amount is received in Spain. In 2024, the applicable tax rate was up to 47% of the pension pay-out. He also informed that two retired staff members had already been affected by this.

The Executive Secretary explained that alternatives had been studied and then presented these, seeking the Commission's advice thereon. The alternatives, in order of priority, were: 1) to modify the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules to remove the section regarding the Pension Plan; 2) to explore a compensation formula to minimize the impact of the taxes on pensions; and 3) to update the Agreement on Seat to include tax exemption for staff members in the General Services category and include the amounts received as retirement pension under the heading of “Salaries and Emoluments”.

The EU requested clarification regarding the background of the ruling and whether it only affected Spanish taxation or if it applied to the taxation of all nations. It also requested detailed information on consultations with experts and asked whether the priority list of alternatives above had been determined by the Secretariat or by the legal and tax advisors.

Canada added that it would be necessary to have information on the costs associated with the proposals and expressed understanding that it was a very sensitive issue, as it concerned the working lives of the staff.

The United Kingdom asked for clarity on what decisions on this issue needed to be made during the meeting. The Chair of STACFAD indicated that, given the time involved in a review and possible revision of the Seat Agreement, a Commission decision this year to empower the Secretariat to open discussions with the Government of Spain was most urgent. STACFAD recommended that the Commission consider requesting that the Secretariat initiate these discussions before the next annual meeting. STACFAD also requested the Secretariat to continue its consultations among staff and its legal advisers and to prepare a concrete proposal to be presented at the 2025 Commission meeting.

8.2 Secretariat office issues

The Executive Secretary noted that ICCAT's headquarters offices are currently within a building of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), but that the IEO had informed (without a formal written notification) of a possible move within two years. As the Government of Spain provides the premises for ICCAT, under the Seat Agreement, the Executive Secretary advised that he had made contact with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation to discuss the implications of the possible IEO move. Finally, the Executive Secretary indicated that he was awaiting an appointment with the General Director of Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) for the official notification of the potential relocation of the IEO from its current premises.

STACFAD has taken note and is awaiting further developments on this matter.

9. Funding needs for proposed ICCAT conservation and management measures

The STACFAD Chair noted that CPCs were now utilizing the new proposal coversheet that STACFAD adopted last year, and STACFAD took note of the document “Funding needs for ICCAT management and conservation measures proposals”, which summarized the information conveyed via the coversheets on the financial, administrative, and scientific workload implications of new proposals.

10. Review of Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2025

The STACFAD Chair reminded the Committee that, following extensive discussions in STACFAD and the Commission plenary, last year, ICCAT had adopted the first year of the 2024-2025 biennial budget but had only provisionally approved the budget for 2025. She noted that the revised 2025 budget had been circulated to CPCs two months in advance of the annual meeting and incorporated changes to the format and content of the budget presentation in line with previous input from the Commission and the VWG-SF. She then presented the document “Explanatory note on the draft ICCAT budget for financial year 2025 (revised)”, which reflected additional comments and input received from CPCs on the initial draft circulated in September. She explained, in general terms, the main modifications made, such as increases in salary chapters and the decrease in the science chapter. She noted that if more detailed information was needed, it should be requested to be included in the document.

CPCs welcomed the additional information provided in the revised Explanatory note but noted the need to further improve the clarity and content of this document. In particular, CPCs requested that the budget presentation more clearly indicate: 1) the actual spending under each chapter in the previous year; 2) which chapters and items were funded solely through the regular budget and which were also funded through voluntary contributions; 3) how surpluses from previous years under each chapter were utilized. CPCs also underscored the need to clarify Chapter 11 on Scientific Research, specifically the sources of funding, actual past expenditures, and proposed projects. STACFAD recommended that the further improvement of the budget presentation be a top-priority issue for the VWG-SF in 2025.

The EU recalled that in 2023, it had expressed reservations about any requested increases for 2025. It emphasized that substantial increases had been requested under some chapters since 2019, and that these increases should be more moderate and gradual, especially for the science budget.

The United Kingdom requested clarification on the reduction to Chapter 11 and whether it was due to an inability to implement.

The Chair of the SCRS indicated that the funds allocated by the Commission to scientific activities in Chapter 11 of the regular budget were a small portion of the request by the SCRS, and that voluntary contributions were used to complete the remainder of the annual requests.

He explained that the Species Groups had been requested to develop their research plans in line with the ICCAT regular budget and that, to make the most of the available funds, the terms of reference for activities for the following year must be developed by November, so that activities could begin as of January of the following year.

A new version of the budget was presented, which included some reductions requested by the EU in line with actual foreseen expenses for 2024.

Gabon and Japan expressed their acceptance of the new version of the document, which proposed a budget increase of around 5% compared to 2024, which was in line with other RFMOs.

The EU indicated that there was an overestimation of costs for science and that more realistic figures should be presented, as the implementation of expenditure differed significantly from the requested funds. To account for the substantial overestimation, the EU requested that the following reductions be considered: for tropical tunas, a reduction in the item “Other fisheries related studies”; for the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, a 50% reduction in the cost of the workshop; for small tunas and billfishes, a reduction in the amounts allocated for biological studies; and for bluefin tuna, a reduction of the cost of developing tagging and recapture campaigns for close kin individuals (CKMR). It also requested that STACFAD or the VWG-SF propose a template to the Species Groups for requesting funds in line with the Commission budget.

The Assistant Executive Secretary, Dr Miguel Neves dos Santos, indicated that until 2023, some flexibility had been granted to extend the implementation of some activities into the following year, as had occurred with billfishes and small tunas. In that case, the difficulty in executing the activities within the approved year was due to the challenge of collecting specific size samples, which are essential for the studies.

He also explained that during the [2024 SCRS Workshop](#) (hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 18-20 March 2024), the Secretariat had emphasised the need to adhere to the science budget. In this regard, research activities must be carried out during the year for which funding is requested, and the extension of the implementation period to the following year would not be authorised. Finally, he informed that some species groups had not been able to utilize the requested funds in accordance with these rules.

The Assistant Executive Secretary also indicated that a measure would be implemented to improve the utilization of funds, with the terms of reference for activities developed through external contracts being published between December and early next year.

Some CPCs expressed the opinion that a general cut should be made to the science budget, and the SCRS would be responsible for distributing the funds according to its priorities, while other CPCs noted that they preferred to make cuts to items.

Following these discussions, the draft budget was further revised to incorporate additional reductions to Chapter 11 with flexibility for the SCRS to adjust, proposing a total budget amount for 2025 of €5,992,471.50. This budget was approved by STACFAD and submitted to the Plenary for adoption (**Tables 1 to 5**).

The document “Explanatory note on the eBCD system budget for the financial years 2025 (revised)” was also presented. The budget for financial year 2025 contained an increase of 2.2% with respect to the version presented in 2023 for financial year 2025.

The eBCD system budget (**eBCD Tables 1 to 5**) was approved and submitted to the plenary for adoption.

11. Other matters

The EU formally requested that all STACFAD documents be published at least 30 days in advance of the start of the meeting and that, if revisions were necessary, these be published as separate documents.

The Chair reminded that the budget had been presented well in advance, and in response to requests received by the Secretariat for additional information, new versions had been published later. She noted that the request was being taken into account, and that the substantive documents would be published early enough for the CPCs to have time to review them.

The Executive Secretary indicated that every effort was being made to meet the deadlines and that, for the following year, it would be necessary to establish the format for presenting the budget and the information required for its review.

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the Report of STACFAD would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Table 1. 2025 ICCAT budget (euros).












Chapters	2024	2025	Increase	2025 Revised
1. Salaries	2,389,752.12	2,509,239.73	0.50%	2,521,896.70
2. Travel	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00%	45,000.00
3. Commission meetings (annual)	350,000.00	350,000.00	0.00%	350,000.00
4. Publicationes	20,600.00	20,600.00	-27.18%	15,000.00
5. Office Equipment	17,000.00	17,000.00	-23.53%	13,000.00
6. Operating Expenses	150,000.00	150,000.00	-26.67%	110,000.00
7. Miscellaneous	8,300.00	8,300.00	-3.61%	8,000.00
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	1,407,276.44	1,477,640.26	0.00%	1,477,640.26
b) Travel to improve statistics	35,000.00	35,000.00	-14.29%	30,000.00
c) Statistics-Biology	22,000.00	22,000.00	0.00%	22,000.00
d) Computer-related items	69,931.40	69,931.40	0.00%	69,931.40
e) Database maintenance	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00%	35,000.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00%	35,000.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	90,000.00	90,000.00	0.00%	90,000.00
h) Interpretation SCRS meetings	212,850.00	212,850.00	-1.34%	210,000.00
i) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,907,057.84</i>	<i>1,977,421.66</i>	 <i>-0.40%</i>	<i>1,969,571.66</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e. legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)	70,555.00	70,555.00	0.00%	70,555.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	65,468.14	65,468.14	0.00%	65,468.14
11. Strategic Research Programme				
a) Strategic Research Programme	45,000.00	200,000.00	 -100.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>	 <i>-100.00%</i>	<i>0.00</i>
12. Compliance				
a) Compliance database maintenance	32,000.00	32,000.00	 9.38%	35,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>32,000.00</i>	<i>32,000.00</i>	 9.38%	<i>35,000.00</i>
13. Travel				
a) Travel by ICCAT/SCRS Chairs	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00%	60,000.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00%	250,000.00
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	61,800.00	61,800.00	0.00%	61,800.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>371,800.00</i>	<i>371,800.00</i>	 <i>0.00%</i>	<i>371,800.00</i>
14. Integrated Online Management System				
a) Integrated Online Management System	328,846.67	412,180.00	 0.00%	412,180.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 14</i>	<i>328,846.67</i>	<i>412,180.00</i>	 <i>0.00%</i>	<i>412,180.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,410.59	5,410.59	-7.59%	5,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	 5,806,790.36	 6,234,975.12	 -3.89%	5,992,471.50

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2025.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2021	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e	Total Panels	Contracting Parties
Albania	A	6,129	3,034	157	0	157	- X - -	1	Albania
Algérie	D	3,747	1,855	1,585	0	1,585	- X - X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	2,294	1,136	42	0	42	X - X X	3	Angola
Barbados	C	16,572	8,204	268	0	268	X - - X	2	Barbados
Belize	C	4,229	2,094	29,483	9,852	39,335	X X X X	4	Belize
Brazil	C	7,487	3,706	49,136	3,169	52,305	X - X X	3	Brazil
Canada	A	52,140	25,812	2,371	0	2,371	X X - X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,214	1,591	11,979	15,252	27,231	X X - X	3	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	12,132	6,006	4,672	0	4,672	X X X X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	2,517	1,246	13,136	0	13,136	X - X X	3	Côte d'Ivoire
Costa Rica	C	12,133	6,006	280	0	280	X - - X	2	Costa Rica
Curaçao	A	57,510	28,470	25,258	0	25,258	X - - -	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,715	1,839	648	0	648	- X - X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,451	2,203	22,863	2,429	25,292	X - - -	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	44,028	21,796	0	0	0	X X - X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	8,117	4,018	129	0	129	X - - X	2	Gabon
Gambia	D	763	378	30	0	30	X - - X	2	Gambia
Ghana	C	2,321	1,149	85,154	29,398	114,552	X - - -	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	8,598	4,256	932	0	932	- - - -	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	4,776	2,364	10,713	0	10,713	X - - X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	8,208	4,063	46	0	46	X - - X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,314	650	1,210	0	1,210	X - - X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	698	346	0	0	0	X - - X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,713	1,343	0	0	0	X - - X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	68,448	33,885	1	0	1	- X - -	1	Iceland
Japan	A	39,749	19,678	24,510	0	24,510	X X X X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	A	34,700	17,178	2,660	0	2,660	X X X X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	541	268	3,196	0	3,196	X - - X	2	Liberia
Libya	D	6,992	3,461	2,328	1,350	3,678	X X - X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,513	1,739	17,489	957	18,446	X X - X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	C	1,994	987	11,615	5,330	16,945	X X - X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	B	10,089	4,995	7,496	0	7,496	X X - X	3	Mexico
Namibia	C	4,981	2,466	9,232	0	9,232	X X X X	4	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,996	988	0	0	0	X - - -	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	2,151	1,065	0	0	0	X - - X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	88,792	43,956	134	0	134	- X - X	2	Norway
Panama	B	13,740	6,802	24,157	0	24,157	X X X X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	3,412	1,689	0	0	0	X - X -	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	A	12,197	6,038	2,283	0	2,283	X X - -	2	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	7,394	3,660	639	0	639	X X X X	4	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,313	1,145	1,175	0	1,175	X - - X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,630	807	49,261	9,229	58,490	X X - X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	479	237	0	0	0	X - - X	2	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	6,341	3,139	4,903	0	4,903	X - X X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	0	0	76	0	76	- X - -	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	13,956	6,909	2,695	0	2,695	X - - X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,525	1,745	10,392	6,826	17,218	- X - X	2	Tunisie
Türkiye	B	9,535	4,720	12,668	0	12,668	- X - X	2	Türkiye
Union Européenne	A	40,114	19,858	233,906	299,107	533,013	X X X X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern	A	47,337	23,434	417	0	417	X X X X	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
United States	A	67,904	33,616	27,822	9,438	37,260	X X X X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	17,218	8,524	0	0	0	X - X X	3	Uruguay
Venezuela	D	0	0	2,783	279	3,062	X X - X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the **Annex**.

Table 3. Contracting Party contributions 2025 (euros).

Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.060 US\$ (11/2024)											
Contracting		Catch +		% Catch +	% Member +	Membership	Panel	Variable fees	Variables fees	Total	Contracting
Party	Group ^a	Canning ^a	Panels ^a	Canning ^b	Panels ^c	fee ^d	Membership ^e	for Member ^f	Catch-Canning ^g	fees ^h	Party
	Albania	A	157	1	0.02%	4.44%	943.00	943.00	58,408.27	657.03	Albania
	Algérie	D	1,585	2	7.83%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	11,220.54	Algérie
	Angola	D	42	3	0.21%	6.90%	943.00	2,829.00	4,941.78	297.33	Angola
	Barbados	C	268	2	0.07%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	491.62	Barbados
	Belize	C	39,335	4	9.55%	7.25%	943.00	3,772.00	27,377.47	72,155.90	Belize
	Brazil	C	52,305	3	12.70%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	95,947.99	Brazil
	Canada	A	2,371	3	0.38%	8.89%	943.00	2,829.00	116,816.55	9,922.35	Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	27,231	3	6.61%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	49,952.39	Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	C	4,672	4	1.13%	7.25%	943.00	3,772.00	27,377.47	8,570.29	China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	13,136	3	3.19%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	24,096.60	Côte d'Ivoire
	Costa Rica	C	280	2	0.07%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	513.63	Costa Rica
	Curaçao	A	25,258	1	4.02%	4.44%	943.00	943.00	58,408.27	105,701.69	Curaçao
	Egypt	D	648	2	3.20%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	4,587.33	Egypt
	El Salvador	C	25,292	1	6.14%	2.90%	943.00	943.00	10,950.99	46,395.50	El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	8.89%	943.00	2,829.00	116,816.55	0.00	France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	129	2	0.03%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	236.64	Gabon
	Gambia	D	30	2	0.15%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	212.38	Gambia
	Ghana	C	114,552	1	27.81%	2.90%	943.00	943.00	10,950.99	210,133.54	Ghana
	Grenada	C	932	0	0.23%	1.45%	943.00	0.00	5,475.49	1,709.66	Grenada
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,713	2	2.60%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	19,651.87	Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	46	2	0.01%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	84.38	Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,210	2	5.98%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	8,565.84	Guinea, Rep. of
	Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	0.00	Guinée-Bissau
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	0.00	Honduras
	Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	4.44%	943.00	943.00	58,408.27	4.18	Iceland
	Japan	A	24,510	4	3.90%	11.11%	943.00	3,772.00	146,020.69	102,571.40	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	A	2,660	4	0.42%	11.11%	943.00	3,772.00	146,020.69	11,131.78	Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	3,196	2	15.79%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	22,625.15	Liberia
	Libya	D	3,678	3	18.17%	6.90%	943.00	2,829.00	4,941.78	26,037.33	Libya
	Maroc	C	18,446	3	4.48%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	33,837.24	Maroc
	Mauritania	C	16,945	3	4.11%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	31,083.81	Mauritania
	Mexico	B	7,496	3	16.91%	33.33%	943.00	2,829.00	58,667.38	59,534.40	Mexico
	Namibia	C	9,232	4	2.24%	7.25%	943.00	3,772.00	27,377.47	16,935.13	Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.45%	943.00	943.00	2,470.89	0.00	Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	0.00	Nigeria
	Norway	A	134	2	0.02%	6.67%	943.00	1,886.00	87,612.41	560.77	Norway
	Panama	B	24,157	4	54.50%	41.67%	943.00	3,772.00	73,334.23	191,858.66	Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	0.00	Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	A	2,283	2	0.36%	6.67%	943.00	1,886.00	87,612.41	9,554.08	Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	639	4	3.16%	8.62%	943.00	3,772.00	6,177.22	4,523.61	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,175	2	5.80%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	8,318.07	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	58,490	3	14.20%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	107,293.72	Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.17%	943.00	1,886.00	3,706.33	0.00	Sierra Leone
	South Africa	D	4,903	3	24.22%	6.90%	943.00	2,829.00	4,941.78	34,709.35	South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	76	1	0.38%	3.45%	943.00	943.00	2,470.89	538.02	Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,695	2	0.65%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	4,943.69	Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	17,218	2	4.18%	4.35%	943.00	1,886.00	16,426.48	31,584.60	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	12,668	2	28.58%	25.00%	943.00	1,886.00	44,000.54	100,611.23	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	533,013	4	84.87%	11.11%	943.00	3,772.00	146,020.69	2,230,595.35	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	417	4	0.07%	11.11%	943.00	3,772.00	146,020.69	1,745.09	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	37,260	4	5.93%	11.11%	943.00	3,772.00	146,020.69	155,928.62	United States
	Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.80%	943.00	2,829.00	21,901.98	0.00	Uruguay
	Venezuela	D	3,062	3	15.13%	6.90%	943.00	2,829.00	4,941.78	21,676.53	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the **Annex**.

Table 4. Contributions by group 2025. 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	12	33	628,064	---	66.50%	11,316.00	31,119.00	3,942,558.55	3,984,993.55
B	3	9	44,321	3.00%	9.00%	2,829.00	8,487.00	528,006.44	539,322.44
C	20	49	411,917	1.00%	20.00%	18,860.00	46,207.00	1,133,427.30	1,198,494.30
D	18	40	20,244	0.25%	4.50%	16,974.00	37,720.00	214,967.22	269,661.22
TOTAL	53	131	1,104,546		100.00%	49,979.00	123,533.00	5,818,959.50	5,992,471.50

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**.

Table 5. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2019 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2020 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>2021 Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Parties</i>
Albania	156 t		156	168 t		168	148 t		148	Albania
Algérie	1,446		1,446	1,655		1,655	1,655		1,655	Algérie
Angola	0 t		0	28 t		28	99 t		99	Angola
Barbados	207 t		207	280 t		280	317 t		317	Barbados
Belize	30,175	7,079	37,254	31,736	10,027	41,763	26,538	12,451	38,989	Belize
Brazil	48,085	2,354	50,439	46,805	2,702	49,507	52,519	4,450	56,969	Brazil
Canada	2,074	0	2,074	2,396	0	2,396	2,643	0	2,643	Canada
Cabo Verde	12,952 t	15,252 co	28,204	15,552 t	15,252 co	30,804	7,432 t	15,252 co	22,684	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	6,763	0	6,763	4,977	0	4,977	2,275	0	2,275	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	16,378 t		16,378	10,301 t		10,301	12,728 t		12,728	Côte d'Ivoire
Costa Rica	235 t		235	254 t		254	350 t		350	Costa Rica
Curaçao	28,708 t		28,708	22,544 t		22,544	24,521 t		24,521	Curaçao
Egypt	541 t		541	442 t		442	961 t		961	Egypt
El Salvador	24,240	998	25,238	26,166	2,909	29,075	18,182	3,380	21,562	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	t		0	t		0	t		0	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	151 t		151	42 t		42	195 t		195	Gabon
Gambia	t		0	30 t		30	t		0	Gambia
Ghana	96,618	24,500	121,118	90,254	32,660	122,914	68,589	31,035	99,624	Ghana
Grenada	1,271 t		1,271	1,113 t		1,113	412 t		412	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	12,587 t		12,587	10,203 t		10,203	9,348 t		9,348	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	45 t		45	46 t		46	46 t		46	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	t		0	t		0	1,210 t		1,210	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	t		0	t		0	t		0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	t		0	t		0	t		0	Honduras
Iceland	t		0	1 t		1	1 t		1	Iceland
Japan	27,648		27,648	23,803		23,803	22,080		22,080	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	3,071 t		3,071	2,259 t		2,259	2,650 t		2,650	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	205 t		205	8,806 t		8,806	578 t		578	Liberia
Libya	2,241 t	1,350 coo	3,591	2,396 t	1,350 coo	3,746	2,348 t	1,350 coo	3,698	Libya
Maroc	15,134 t	957 coo	16,091	17,914 t	957 coo	18,871	19,418 t	957 coo	20,375	Maroc
Mauritania	6,091 t	5,330 coo	11,421	15,832 t	5,330 coo	21,162	12,921 t	5,330 coo	18,251	Mauritania
Mexico	9,319 t		9,319	7,409 t		7,409	5,759 t		5,759	Mexico
Namibia	4,307 t		4,307	9,052 t		9,052	14,338 t		14,338	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	t		0	t		0	t		0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	t		0	t		0	t		0	Nigeria
Norway	49	0	49	194	0	194	158	0	158	Norway
Panama	23,860	0	23,860	24,646	0	24,646	23,965	0	23,965	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,500		1,500	3,916		3,916	1,433		1,433	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	938	0	938	791	0	791	187	0	187	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	1,329 t		1,329	830 t		830	1,366 t		1,366	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	52,493 t	9,229 co	61,722	42,308 t	9,229 co	51,537	52,981 t	9,229 co	62,210	Senegal
Sierra Leone	t		0	t		0	t		0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	4,179 t		4,179	5,418 t		5,418	5,113 t		5,113	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	72 t		72	79 t		79	0		0	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,620	0	2,620	2,595	0	2,595	2,869		2,869	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	11,657 t	6,826 co	18,483	10,305 t	6,826 co	17,131	9,213 t	6,826 co	16,039	Tunisie
Türkiye	4,679		4,679	26,824		26,824	6,501		6,501	Türkiye
Union Européenne	267,998	299,107	567,105	215,386	299,107	514,493	218,334	299,107	517,441	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	503 t		503	310 t		310	439 t		439	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	19,293	8,396	27,689	37,008	10,342	47,350	27,166	9,576	36,742	United States
Uruguay	t		0	t		0	t		0	Uruguay
Venezuela	2,960	161	3,121	2,548	294	2,842	2,842	382	3,224	Venezuela
TOTAL	744,778	381,539	1,126,317	725,622	396,985	1,122,607	662,828	399,325	1,062,153	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S19-01573).

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 27 October 2023)

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 2,02 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2017-2018-2019 Catches (t)
d	Average 2017-2018-2019 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

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

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

eBCD Table 1. 2025 eBCD system budget (euros).

eBCD system fund	2024	2025	Increase	2025 Revised
Support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) system	320,000.00	336,000.00	0.00%	336,000.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (WG)				
a) Other developments as required	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Salaries	95,630.66	100,412.19	9.66%	110,108.32
TOTAL BUDGET	415,630.66	436,412.19 	2.22%	446,108.32

eBCD Table 2. Basic information to calculate the 2025 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	Average Catch ^b (2017-2019)	% Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	% No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% Import weight ^d	Contracting Parties
Albania	A	157.44	0.66%	3	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	Albania
Algérie	D	1,578.50	39.10%	33	19.64%	0.00	0.00%	Algérie
Canada	A	618.40	2.59%	4,921	3.28%	54.05	0.04%	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	C	96.98	1.64%	449	3.80%	66.58	100.00%	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	237.34	5.88%	76	45.24%	0.00	0.00%	Egypt
Iceland	A	0.41	0.00%	32	0.02%	0.93	0.00%	Iceland
Japan	A	3,102.93	12.98%	14,884	9.93%	93,418.24	75.30%	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	A	240.65	1.01%	2,955	1.97%	10,657.92	8.59%	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	D	2,171.34	53.78%	57	33.93%	0.00	0.00%	Libya
Maroc	C	3,222.66	54.56%	10,744	90.88%	0.00	0.00%	Maroc
Mexico	B	43.00	2.01%	103	4.38%	0.00	0.00%	Mexico
Norway	A	133.79	0.56%	230	0.15%	20.83	0.02%	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	50.39	1.25%	2	1.19%	0.00	0.00%	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	2,587.42	43.80%	629	5.32%	0.00	0.00%	Tunisie
Türkiye	B	2,095.20	97.99%	2,247	95.62%	0.00	0.00%	Türkiye
Union Européenne	A	18,453.93	77.21%	114,546	76.40%	17,064.62	13.76%	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	1.80	0.01%	470	0.31%	162.49	0.13%	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	1,192.08	4.99%	11,893	7.93%	2,680.01	2.16%	United States

a), b), c), d): See the legends in the **Annex**.

eBCD Table 3. 2025 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (euros).

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.060 US\$ (11/2024)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	% Average Catch ^b	% No. of Trade ^c	% Import weight ^d	Basic fee ^e	Average Catch ^f	No. of Trade ^g	Import weight ^h	Total fees ⁱ	Contracting Party	
Albania	A	0.66%	0.00%	0.00%	660.10	781.66	3.17	0.00	1,444.93	Albania	
Algérie	D	39.10%	19.64%	0.00%	660.10	306.07	203.85	0.00	1,170.03	Algérie	
Canada	A	2.59%	3.28%	0.04%	660.10	3,070.26	5,193.04	51.70	8,975.11	Canada	
China, People's Rep. of	C	1.64%	3.80%	100.00%	660.10	56.16	173.23	3,420.88	4,310.38	China, People's Rep. of	
Egypt	D	5.88%	45.24%	0.00%	660.10	46.02	469.48	0.00	1,175.60	Egypt	
Iceland	A	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	660.10	2.05	33.77	0.89	696.81	Iceland	
Japan	A	12.98%	9.93%	75.30%	660.10	15,405.58	15,706.82	89,357.91	121,130.40	Japan	
Korea, Rep. of	A	1.01%	1.97%	8.59%	660.10	1,194.78	3,118.36	10,194.68	15,167.92	Korea, Rep. of	
Libya	D	53.78%	33.93%	0.00%	660.10	421.03	352.11	0.00	1,433.23	Libya	
Maroc	C	54.56%	90.88%	0.00%	660.10	1,866.30	4,145.26	0.00	6,671.67	Maroc	
Mexico	B	2.01%	4.38%	0.00%	660.10	220.05	635.72	0.00	1,515.87	Mexico	
Norway	A	0.56%	0.15%	0.02%	660.10	664.25	242.71	19.92	1,586.99	Norway	
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1.25%	1.19%	0.00%	660.10	9.77	12.35	0.00	682.23	Syrian Arab Republic	
Tunisie	C	43.80%	5.32%	0.00%	660.10	1,498.42	242.68	0.00	2,401.20	Tunisie	
Türkiye	B	97.99%	95.62%	0.00%	660.10	10,721.86	13,868.67	0.00	25,250.63	Türkiye	
Union Européenne	A	77.21%	76.40%	13.76%	660.10	91,620.99	120,878.32	16,322.92	229,482.33	Union Européenne	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.01%	0.31%	0.13%	660.10	8.92	495.98	155.42	1,320.43	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
United States	A	4.99%	7.93%	2.16%	660.10	5,918.48	12,550.47	2,563.52	21,692.57	United States	

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**.

eBCD Table 4. 2025 contributions to the eBCD system by Group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in euros.

Groups	Parties ^a	Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% of each Party ^e	% of the Budget ^f	Basic Fees ^g (Euros)	Average Catch ^h (Euros)	No. of Trade ⁱ (Euros)	Import weight ^j (Euros)	Total fees ^k (Euros)
A	9	23,901.42	149,934.00	124,059.09	---	90.00%	5,940.90	118,666.98	158,222.64	118,666.98	401,497.49
B	2	2,138.20	2,350.00	0.00	3.00%	6.00%	1,320.20	10,941.91	14,504.39	0.00	26,766.50
C	3	5,907.05	11,822.00	66.58	1.00%	3.00%	1,980.30	3,420.88	4,561.18	3,420.88	13,383.25
D	4	4,037.57	168.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,640.40	782.89	1,037.79	0.00	4,461.08
TOTAL	18	35,984.25	164,274.00	124,125.66		100.00%	11,881.80	133,812.66	178,326.00	122,087.86	446,108.32

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k): See the legends in the **Annex**.

eBCD Table 5. Eastern and western bluefin tuna catch figures (in t) for 2019-2021 of the members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2019</i>			<i>2020</i>			<i>2021</i>			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	156.25		156.25	167.67		167.67	148.40		148.40	Albania
Algérie	1,436.95		1,436.95	1,648.68		1,648.68	1,649.86		1,649.86	Algérie
Canada		632.87	632.87		591.60	591.60		630.73	630.73	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	88.96		88.96	100.99		100.99	100.99		100.99	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	263.34		263.34	122.08		122.08	326.61		326.61	Egypt
Iceland	0.00		0.00	0.70		0.70	0.54		0.54	Iceland
Japan	2,523.73	406.29	2,930.02	2,781.63	407.58	3,189.21	2,779.99	409.57	3,189.56	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	232.43		232.43	247.27		247.27	242.24		242.24	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	2,051.65		2,051.65	2,228.20		2,228.20	2,234.18		2,234.18	Libya
Maroc	2,920.00		2,920.00	3,453.71		3,453.71	3,294.26		3,294.26	Maroc
Mexico		39.00	39.00		28.00	28.00		62.00	62.00	Mexico
Norway	49.30		49.30	194.39		194.39	157.68		157.68	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	71.97		71.97	79.20		79.20	0.00		0.00	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	2,379.13		2,379.13	2,653.38		2,653.38	2,729.74		2,729.74	Tunisie
Türkiye	1,770.78		1,770.78	2,257.88		2,257.88	2,256.95		2,256.95	Türkiye
Union Européenne	17,064.09		17,064.09	19,134.03		19,134.03	19,163.67		19,163.67	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		0.34	0.34		1.42	1.42	2.92	0.71	3.63	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States		1,190.78	1,190.78		1,184.99	1,184.99		1,200.46	1,200.46	United States
TOTAL	31,008.58	2,269.28	33,277.86	35,069.80	2,213.59	37,283.39	35,088.02	2,303.47	37,391.49	TOTAL

Catch figures (in t) based on Compliance Table tabled at 2022 annual meeting (*Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 1*).

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	Average catches (t) for 2017-2019
c	Total number of trades in the eBCD system 2017-2019
d	CPC's overall volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system (The relevant trade and import data from the eBCD system shall reflect the same time period used to determine the relevant catch and canning data pursuant to paragraph 1(b)(ii).)

Table 3

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of the CPC's Atlantic bluefin tuna catch within its Group
c	Percentage of number of CPC's trades in the eBCD system within its group
d	Percentage of CPC total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system within its group
e	Basic fee (US\$700)
f	Fee in proportion to live weight of bluefin tuna for the Contracting Party
g	Fee in proportion to the number of CPC trades in the eBCD system
h	Fee in proportion to the CPC volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system
i	Total contribution

Table 4

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Total volume of bluefin tuna catch by Group
c	Total number of trades by Group in the eBCD system
d	Total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna by Group, as recorded in the eBCD system
e	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group as per the Madrid Protocol
f	Percentage of the budget financed by each Group
g	Basic fees within each Group
h	Fees: 30% based on total live weight of bluefin tuna catch (43% if there are no trade and import data)
i	Fees: 40% based on the total number of trades (57% if there are no trade and import data)
j	Fees: 30% based on the volume of imported bluefin tuna (0% if there are no trade and import data)
k	Total contribution

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 4.1 2024 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 2024 Financial Report
 - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Assistance to developing CPCs
 - 5.1 Review of procedures and funding for the Meeting Participation Fund
 - 5.2 Funding mechanisms for other capacity building activities
6. Review of the outcomes of the Virtual Working Group on the review of the Rules of Procedure (VWG-RRP) of the Commission
7. Review of the outcomes of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF)
8. Institutional arrangements regarding the Secretariat
 - 8.1 Information on staff pension fund and future actions needed
 - 8.2 Secretariat office issues
9. Funding needs for proposed ICCAT conservation and management measures
10. Review of Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2025
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of report and adjournment

Guidelines for the Election of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

(submitted by the Commission Chair in coordination with STACFAD Chair)

Principles:

- a) The election of ICCAT Officers (i.e. the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Commission, ICCAT Panels, and Committees) should be done through a transparent and inclusive process and decisions taken by consensus; voting should only be considered as a last resort.
- b) Election of Officers should be on an individual basis (*intuitu personae*), rather than on the basis of Contracting Party. While personal merit remains decisive, to the extent possible, there should be a fair and balanced representation of all interests: developed and developing States, geographical balance and gender balance. Ideally, no CPC should be represented in more than one Chair position at any given time.
- c) In order to assist the Chairs when necessary, the subsidiary bodies, at their discretion, may each elect a vice-chair.
- d) The Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Commission may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms in the same position. The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the subsidiary bodies may be eligible to be re-elected for multiple terms, unless the Commission establishes term limits for these positions in the Rules of Procedure. Where there is the possibility of re-election, efforts should be made to invite and consider nominations of alternative candidates, and to consider the suitability of all candidates based on their expertise and experience.
- e) The principles outlined above apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SCRS. Given the particular and more independent nature of the SCRS and its work, the process and procedures outlined below do not apply in the election of the SCRS Chair and the selection of its officers.
- f) These guidelines are to be understood and applied consistent with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

Process and procedures:

- a) The Commission Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will circulate a request for nominations from Contracting Parties at least six months in advance of the annual meeting where an election will take place. When requesting nominations, the Secretariat will advise the Commission on which current ICCAT Officers are eligible for re-appointment, and, of those, which would be available to serve if re-elected. The circular should request Contracting Parties to submit any nominations at least two months before the annual meeting.
- b) Contracting Parties nominating first-time candidates should include a brief CV or other summary of qualifications to assess their suitability for the position. The initial list of candidates will be circulated to the Commission for information at least six weeks before the annual meeting.
- c) If the initial list of candidates does not provide the balance as stated in the principles above, the Commission Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will seek additional suitable candidates from the under-represented groups. Any changes to the initial list of candidates resulting from this part of the process will be circulated to the Commission for information at least thirty days before the annual meeting.

- d) On the basis of the list developed pursuant to the above process, the Commission Chair and Vice Chairs will work with the Contracting Parties in advance of the annual meeting, including to resolve situations where more than one nomination is received for a position, with a view to developing an equitable and balanced proposed list of Officers that can be agreed at the annual ICCAT meeting. Contracting Parties should also consult with one another as needed during this period to try to resolve any differences of view.
- e) In light of these consultations, the Chair will circulate a proposed list of Officers to the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and at least two weeks before the annual meeting for consideration.
- f) No new nominations for Officer positions should be made during the ICCAT annual meeting itself unless exceptional circumstances exist such as a lack of nominees for a particular position.
- g) Taking into account the results of the process set out above, each ICCAT subsidiary body and the Commission will, consistent with ICCAT's Rules of Procedure, go through the process of formally electing their officers, during their respective sessions at the annual Commission meetings.

Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4

8.1 Report of the Meeting of Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting

Panel 1 held several intersessional meetings during 2024. The Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 was held in Limassol in Cyprus in hybrid format on 9 and 10 November 2024, ahead of the 24th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It was agreed that it would not be necessary to produce a separate report for the sessions held on 9 and 10 November 2024 and that all Panel 1 discussions during the month of November would be included in this report.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Senegal put forward Mr Adama Faye as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

In adopting the agenda, it was decided to swap agenda items 9 and 6 in order to discuss in depth and focus on the management measure presented in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas”, which would be the focus of the two day special session of Panel 1 on 9-10 November 2024. It was decided that the other items on the agenda would be referred to the sessions of the annual meeting.

4. Review of Panel membership

The ICCAT Executive Secretary informed that this meeting was attended by 38 Contracting Parties, including Costa Rica, which had become a member in June, and by 12 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and The Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO).

Panel 1 comprises the following 42 members: Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leona, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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

According to the SCRS Chair, annual catches of yellowfin tuna have exceeded the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the last five years and are in the region of 140,000 t. The use of the three indices has improved stock assessment. The relative biomass has decreased over the years but remains above that corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The Kobe plot shows that there is a 58% probability of the stock being in the green quadrant and the MSY is estimated at 121,661 t.

According to the SCRS Chair, if recent catches continue (140,000 t), there is a high probability of overfishing around 2030. However, if catches are limited to below 125,000 t, there is at least a 50% probability that the stock will remain in the green quadrant. The SCRS recommends maintaining the catches below 125,000 t and indicates that the measures in force are not effective and need to be strengthened, noting that excessive catches of juveniles will have negative consequences on the state of the stock.

The SCRS Chair indicated that there is no new management advice for these two bigeye and skipjack stocks and that points 19.31, 19.32 and 19.38 of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2024-25 Part I (2024)*, Vol. 2 had already been presented and discussed in Panel 1.

The SCRS Chair presented information to further clarify the SCRS results on the closure period and the impact on the resource, in particular the catch of juveniles, focusing on two graphs, one of which concerned yellowfin tuna, assessed in 2024, and the other bigeye tuna, which was last assessed in 2021.

In response to a question from some CPCs regarding the current period and duration of the moratorium or if it should run into the second quarter, the SCRS Chair reaffirmed the Chair's position that a fixed period could not be clearly recommended, given the lack of conclusiveness on the questions put to the SCRS on the FAD moratorium. Better advice could be available at the next bigeye tuna assessment in 2025, which would address the uncertainties. Alternately, the CPCs proposed moratorium periods of one to two months in the second semester and to revisit this next year after the assessment, but without committing.

The SCRS Chair maintained that there is as yet no clear scientific proof of the effectiveness of the current moratorium, but this did not mean that there had been no impact. He noted that the SCRS had discussed whether a 30–90-day closure on fish aggregating devices (FAD) fishing would be sufficient, provided it took place in the second quarter of the year, but that a consensus had not been reached.

The SCRS Chair then presented the key points from section 19, point 38, of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2024-25 Part I (2024)*, Vol. 2 regarding the FAD closure period.

In conclusion, he noted that catch data alone are not enough to assess the impact of Fish aggregating devices (FAD) fishing, but that in his opinion one of the most relevant approaches to reducing juvenile mortality is the “moratorium” with an appropriate period and duration. To respond decisively to the concerns of the CPCs and draw clear conclusions on this subject, a bigeye tuna assessment would be necessary.

Following the presentation by the SCRS Chair, the Minister of Fisheries of Ghana was given the opportunity to make an important statement “Statement to Panel 1 by Ghana” (Appendix 2 of ANNEX 8) inviting the Commission to find a consensus for tropical tunas and to introduce fair, equitable and inclusive measures for the sustainable management of resources.

A CPC indicated that yellowfin tuna catches over the last five years have greatly exceeded the TAC and noted that there was no talk of overfishing by the SCRS. It asked what would happen if purse seine allocation is increased.

The SCRS Chair indicated that fishing mortality was the criterion used for assessing overfishing, not overrun of the TAC, but that this overharvest could not be sustained in the long term.

Several CPCs expressed concern about the yellowfin tuna TAC being exceeded, and requested that the Commission take measures to avoid the same situation for bigeye tuna.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities (Res. 15-13)*

The Chair of Panel 1 recalled the process that had led to presentation of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” at the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 (22-24 May 2024, Natal, Brazil), and invited the CPCs to show more flexibility in order to remove the square brackets in the revised draft recommendation, which he had proposed based on the conclusions of that intersessional meeting on bigeye tuna.

Allocation of bigeye tuna TAC

As regards the bigeye tuna total allowable catch (TAC), many CPCs supported a TAC of 73,000 t, but several other CPCs insisted they needed more clarity on the package of measures that was being considered before they could agree to a TAC. It was agreed to continue allocation negotiations on the basis of a 73,000 t TAC, while other aspects of the measure remained under consideration.

The Chair of the Panel 1 presented several versions of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” with the progress of the discussions.

The Chair explained that provisions related to bigeye tuna allocation resulted from dialogue and consultations between CPCs throughout the year and that adjustments could be made to the categories of the bigeye tuna allocation tables and to individual CPC limits. Discussions focused on the three categories of CPCs included in the proposal, as well as the amount set aside for small harvesters and the associated trigger threshold. A number of CPCs insisted that the Chair present a document explaining the methodology for his allocation proposal. Several CPCs requested that their allocation category be changed and/or requested increases to their proposed allocations.

No agreement was reached on the trigger threshold, some CPCs recommended a threshold of 1,300 t for Group C CPCs as a compromise, and others preferring 1,575 t.

China (P.R.) once again raised a concern about its classification in Group A, proposing that a footnote should indicate the classification criteria or that the categories defined in Annex 1 should be used.

Several CPCs noted that Group C CPCs “small harvesters” will receive a small share of the TAC. The Chair explained that this was not a reserve, but an indicative group limit. Whatever the share allocated to Group C, a CPC in this group will be able to fish as much as possible up to the chosen trigger. If a CPC develops beyond this trigger, a hard limit will be set for it by the Commission, which will then review the measure to ensure that the quota is respected.

China (P.R.) then presented “2025-2027 bigeye catch limit suggested by China” with an allocation table based on 2019 catches. In its view, this would be a fair distribution of the TAC increase.

Some CPCs considered that it was too late to propose a new allocation methodology, but that it was instead necessary to refine the Chair's proposal, which had the support of the majority of CPCs and was fairer for developing countries.

Based on discussions on the floor and further consultations with CPCs, the Chair then presented an updated version of the draft recommendation which, in paragraph 4 on the allocation of the bigeye tuna TAC of 73,000 t, takes into account the concerns of small-scale harvesters and those of some CPCs which have a quota lower than their catches, including a reparation table with three categories, A, B and C, as well as a trigger threshold of 1,575 t for category C.

Some CPCs commented on paragraphs 4a) and 4b) and suggested that the allocation of category C should be gradual, provided, according to one CPC, that ICCAT could review the CPCs' fisheries development plans. Once again these CPCs asked the Chair to provide Panel 1 with a written document describing the methodology for allocation of the bigeye tuna TAC.

Some CPCs supported adjustments to or deletion of paragraphs 4a), 4b), 4d), 4f) and 4g) as they would not apply until 2028, as well as of Annex 1 due to the 2025 bigeye tuna assessment and its hypothetical results, and that there was time to develop a governance mechanism.

Regarding the FAD closure provisions, some CPCs noted the socio-economic effects of the measure and proposed a reduction in the FAD moratorium in the absence of reasoned scientific advice, while other CPCs opted for a precautionary approach, indicating that it was necessary to ensure that the increase in the TAC did not result in an increase in fishing mortality of juvenile fish.

Discussions also focused on the impact of increasing the catch limits of purse seiners and their potential effect on the resource. It was noted that the bigeye tuna stock status is not in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot but rather in the yellow quadrant, hence the need, according to some CPCs, to opt for a precautionary approach and to maintain the balance, for better improvement of the bigeye tuna stock.

One CPC expressed the view that the closure periods observed were not based on strictly scientific decisions.

Given the insistence of many CPCs on reducing the duration of the moratorium, while others emphasized the importance of conserving juvenile fish, Japan indicated that, as a middle ground, it was proposing to reduce the closure to 45 days on the condition that this would only apply for one year and that this measure would be reviewed after the new stock assessment and advice from the SCRS on the effects of catch limit increase for purse seiners on juvenile mortality. If the impact were proven negative for the stock, the Commission would consider a measure to offset the negative impact in 2026, with a default return to 72 days if the Commission fails to agree on such a measure. The European Union (EU) welcomed Japan's proposal but, given the short time-period, did not see how it would be possible to already obtain an opinion on the effects of the new recommendation at the next plenary session, resulting in an automatic return to 72 days, which would be an unacceptable scenario for the EU. On this point, the SCRS Chair indicated that the effects of the measure could only be assessed on the basis of projections.

Some CPCs recalled the significant negative economic impact of the moratorium on the industry and wanted the moratorium to be limited to 30 days, in April, because the effectiveness of the moratorium on the resource remains difficult to assess, while the socio-economic effects of the measure are perfectly visible.

Some CPCs said that they could accept the 45-day period, which would then be more appropriate for the second quarter, or support it if the measure is transitional and asked the SCRS to specify without delay the data it will need to carry out its analyses.

A CPC proposed that the forthcoming SCRS opinion on the effects of the moratorium should cover not only juveniles caught by surface fleets but also adults, which account for 49% of catches.

As regards the number of FADs per vessel (paragraph 29), two CPCs supported a reduction in the limit on the number of FADs to 275, since this limit corresponds to that adopted by other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and a reduction would make it possible to reduce the effects of FADs on the environment.

Some CPCs indicated that they were not in favour of a reduction in the number of FADs, noting that the SCRS had not recommended a further reduction in the number of FADs and that the fleet had already committed to a transition to biodegradable FADs.

Some CPCs supported a one-year transitional measure for the moratorium and for limiting the number of FADs per vessel to 288, starting in 2026. A moratorium from 17 March to 30 April (45 days) and more flexible language of the paragraph on the future review of the moratorium received consensus. As to the number of FADs, 288 was proposed as a compromise and was agreed as a limit for 2026 and 2027.

Observer coverage

No consensus was reached on observer coverage on board longliners, and some even proposed extending the electronic monitoring system.

The United States noted the exclusion of a provision in recent tropical tuna measures that referred to a geographical area that excepted provisions related to the automatic recognition of flag-CPC observers within coastal EEZs, explaining that this provision is critical to allow those provisions to be adopted for the benefit of CPCs fishing in the East Atlantic.

In addition, there was much discussion of the difference in required observer coverage rates for different gear types in the existing measure, with a 100% coverage rate for purse seiners and 10% for longliners. An increase to 20% for longliners was recommended by the SCRS, and an increase from 5% to 10% was effected from 2024. Several CPCs indicated that this gap is imbalanced and insisted on an increase to 20% for longline vessels, consistent with the SCRS recommendation, while some other CPCs insisted that the 10% coverage should be ensured first since some CPCs do not achieve 10% coverage.

In this regard, Japan pointed out that observers on purse seiners do not record catch amount by species, while those on longliners measure the weight and length of individual fish and collect biological samples as well as bycatch information, indicating that the observer coverage alone does not mean scientific contributions. Japan informed of the huge difficulties it is facing in recruiting, training, dispatching, and debriefing observers, especially due to limited human resources for observers. It has informed that it recruits observers in Indonesia. Given that electronic monitoring systems still have technical issues, Japan cannot commit to a further increase even if it achieves the 10% coverage. This explanation was considered so useful that a CPC insisted that it be included in the meeting report.

Questioned on the level of observer coverage on longliners to ensure the robustness of the data, the SCRS Chair responded by stating that the coverage level required depends on the purpose of the data being collected.

It was also recalled that in 2017, the SCRS had recommended 20% observer coverage for fleets, but some CPCs still reaffirmed their difficulties in finding observers and therefore could not agree to the text of the Chair's proposal.

As regards the final provisions, one CPC requested clarification of the guidelines on the confidentiality of data compiled by ICCAT. It was agreed that the applicable confidentiality guidelines for submitted data were the Rules and Procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT.

This CPC also reiterated, together with Nicaragua, that its delegation supported increasing observer coverage to 20%, and that progress in this direction could soften its position on the duration of the moratorium.

A strong concern was raised on version C of the draft recommendation with changes based on the latest discussions regarding allocation, and Panel 1 mandated the Chair to continue consultations with all CPCs and to submit the latest version of the document to the Plenary of the Commission.

The Panel agreed that version D of the draft recommendation be submitted by the Chair to the Plenary of the Commission for consideration, following presentation of the methodology for allocation of the bigeye tuna TAC, the bigeye tuna allocation table, the yellowfin tuna TAC of 110,000 t and the control measures (closure and FAD limits).

7. Review of compliance tables and payback plans

The Chair of Panel 1 urged CPCs to review the compliance tables within the Compliance Committee (COC) given the time constraints.

Brazil referred to its "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 23-02 on Brazil's bigeye tuna payback plan" for its accumulated overharvest, emphasizing its commitment to improving monitoring and control mechanisms. A revised version was agreed by the Panel and forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

8. Consideration of progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for western skipjack and tropical tunas multi-stocks

Western skipjack MSE

The SCRS Chair described the substantial work that has gone into the development of the western skipjack tuna MSE in 2024. The MSE development team incorporated catch data from 2021 and 2022, updated the three main CPUE indices, and developed a combined index from those indices. The team developed a new CMP, undertook a tuning process, and developed two types of CMPs based on a symmetric vs asymmetric changes in TAC. The updates indicated a need to substantially reduce catches to the limit reference point, i.e. 70%. However, the SCRS Chair emphasized that this result was surprising, considering that the western skipjack stock is deep in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix, and noted that the unexpected results were likely the result of assumptions made in the MSE development.

For the 2025 workplan, the SCRS plans to develop robustness tests on Climate Change.

Multi-stocks MSE

For the multi-stocks MSE, the SCRS proposed to evaluate different management objectives and a roadmap is contained in Appendix 7 of the [Report for Biennial Period, 2024-25 Part I \(2024\), Vol. 2](#).

Several CPCs urged the Commission to allocate the necessary resources for multi-stocks MSEs.

The SCRS also indicated that the MSE did not address interactions between different tropical species, but will focus on interactions between gears and fleets in 2025.

Review of draft recommendations on MSE

The United States presented the document “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna”, with the aim of providing guidance to the SCRS as they develop management strategy evaluation for the three tropical tuna stocks.

The EU presented the document “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna” which aims to help the SCRS to carry out its work on MSEs with guidelines for reducing the workload, and contains target reference values for stock management.

Some CPCs made comments and asked questions of the document proponents. Subsequently, the EU and United States presented a combined proposal which was endorsed and referred to the Plenary.

Brazil submitted the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a candidate management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack tuna”, subsequently co-sponsored by the United States. Brazil explained that the use of the new combined abundance index had led to profound changes in the results of the various management procedures tested, making it more difficult to achieve a long-term probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (PGK) of more than 70%, despite the fact that western skipjack tuna is in a healthy status. Brazil therefore proposed to reduce the management objective to a long-term PGK of 60%, with a higher intermediate objective, for the SCRS to continue work to refine the MP, and to adopt a TAC based on the MP at the 2026 annual meeting.

As no CPC objected, the Chair declared the new proposal approved by Panel 1, and submitted it to the Plenary for adoption.

9. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair described the intersessional work that took place in advance of this meeting framing discussions of agenda item 6, above.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 6 above

This agenda item was not discussed by the Panel.

11. Research

This agenda item was not discussed by the Panel.

12. Other matters

Statements were submitted to Panel 1 by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) and Sciaena, which are contained in **Appendices 3 and 4 to ANNEX 8**. No other matters were discussed.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The final session of Panel 1 was closed on 18 November 2024 and version D of the draft recommendation was submitted to the Commission plenary for adoption.

8.2 Report of the Meeting of Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr Shingo Ota (Japan). Mr Ota welcomed members and expressed hope for a productive meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Stephanie Murphy (United States) was appointed as the Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with minor changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The ICCAT Secretariat informed Panel 2 that there were no changes regarding Panel membership. At the end of the session, however, Namibia informed Panel 2 that they would stop being a member of Panel 2.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), including research

The Chair of the SCRS, Dr Craig Brown, provided a detailed overview of the SCRS report.

The SCRS Chair summarized the intersessional work focused on close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Modeling mark-recapture genotyping has allowed the SCRS to better identify the stock, distinguish between the eastern and western stocks, and determine sex and kinships. The SCRS Chair also noted that no Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) were found this year for either stock of bluefin tuna.

He also suggested that, in the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), an aerial survey should be contracted and CKMR analysis should be enhanced, which would require additional funding in 2026, but this was not endorsed by Panel 2. It was agreed that the EU, which is the biggest donor of the GBYP, will discuss this with scientists and come back to the ICCAT Secretariat to inform a suggested way forward. Panel 2 welcomed the intention of the United States to contribute to the promotion of this new method without causing any financial burden (i.e., through in-kind efforts).

The SCRS Chair summarized the Mediterranean albacore assessment and findings. There were some challenges that affected the assessment that resulted in two very different estimates of the albacore stock status. However, the SCRS Chair stated that the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (2,500 t) meets the management objective ($B > B_{MSY}$) for both. It is recommended that the stock be re-evaluated only after main sources of uncertainty are addressed. The SCRS Chair noted that before it can advise on the timing of the next Mediterranean albacore stock assessment, it would be helpful to have a commitment regarding what research can be done in the coming years to improve existing indices and historical data.

The SCRS Chair summarized the North Atlantic albacore stock status and findings. No ECs were documented. The SCRS requested resources for a variety of work related to North Atlantic albacore.

6. Review of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair summarized the results of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (hybrid, Madrid (Spain) 5-8 March 2024). The first part of the meeting considered CPC fishing plans; fishing capacity management plans; monitoring, control, and inspection plans; and farming management plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. All CPC plans were endorsed with the exception of Namibia, which was prohibited from fishing in 2024 in accordance with paragraph 11 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)*. Several potential amendments to Rec. 22-08 were discussed and referred to the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). In the second part of the meeting, several CPCs submitted documents related to the ongoing eastern bluefin tuna allocation discussions, and the Chair had committed to developing a path forward. The *Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2* was adopted.

7. Review of compliance tables

The Chair of Panel 2 presented his document “A Case for Libya’s joint fishing operation (JFO) (to be discussed under Agenda item 7)”. The Chair invited CPC views on the issue.

Libya clarified a number of points regarding the country’s compliance and coastal management. Libya reiterated its compliance with ICCAT Recommendations and asserted that it is compliant, but has faced technical challenges. It was suggested that Rec. 22-08 should be amended to account for scenarios that include force majeure, quota reallocations, and joint fishing operations (JFOs), among others. Libya tabled its document which presents several proposed amendments under the title “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”.

Discussion focused on possible paths forward for JFO quota transfers. CPCs noted the importance of each country staying within its allocated quota, and suggested that there was a need to improve Rec. 22-08 to avoid uncertainties in its interpretation. CPCs also discussed whether quota transfers should be required to be completed before the start of the fishing operation and what sort of compensation structures might be permitted. There was some support for transfers in the case of ECs, although some CPCs favoured a more conservative approach to quota transfers. The Chair agreed to propose language reflecting the discussion in his proposal amending Rec. 22-08, which was ultimately adopted and submitted to the Plenary (see item 8).

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities (Res. 15-13)*

8.1 *Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (amendments to Rec. 22-08)*

The Chair presented his proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, which he developed based on intersessional discussions and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea (Rec. 23-08)*. Panel 2 agreed to many of the suggested changes with a few exceptions.

One element that Panel 2 discussed extensively was the benchmark growth rate for farmed bluefin tuna used for monitoring purposes. One CPC proposed that the maximum weight (i.e. upper 95%) be used instead of the average weight in the 2022 SCRS growth table for the purpose of the growth rate monitoring, but some CPCs opposed this as the maximum weight was too high to monitor a significant discrepancy between observed and expected growth rates. The SCRS Chair clarified that the SCRS had calculated the average growth rate in cages and that the 2022 growth rate table also shows the upper 95% as the proxy for the highest growth rate that could be expected. Accordingly, this proposal was not adopted.

CPCs discussed a variety of updates and clarifications proposed by the Chair and by members. Dates were updated to reflect current timelines where appropriate, and other amendments were made to address outdated provisions. CPCs presented a variety of proposals to amend [Rec. 22-08](#). These were agreed and incorporated into a final revised version of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, which was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

Some elements of the Chair’s proposal, particularly those related to the consideration of bluefin tuna aquaculture (“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on aquaculture bluefin tuna” submitted by the European Union and Egypt, a revised version of which was produced), were contingent upon ongoing, concurrent discussions in the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). Upon conclusion of negotiations in the PWG, relevant language in the Chair’s proposal to amend [Rec. 22-08](#) was updated accordingly before the proposal was forwarded to Plenary.

In addition to the Chair’s proposal, Panel 2 discussed several documents to propose amendments to [Rec. 22-08](#).

8.1.1 Derogation in the Cantabrian Sea

The EU presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. It added a provision to derogate from the current 20% increase in the number of purse seine vessels compared to the 2018 Record of vessels, on the condition that the increase is based on the conversion of vessels from other fleets. The EU explained that the derogation is needed to convert baitboat capacity into purse seiner capacity in the Cantabrian Sea.

Some CPCs noted that the Panel should be cautious in granting derogations. In response to questions from CPCs, the EU clarified that the overall fishing capacity of EU Member States would not change, and that currently the unused quota is transferred to purse seiners in the Mediterranean. The United States requested that the SCRS re-evaluate 2009 catch levels and capacity tables and suggested that the Panel should revisit the derogation based on the SCRS reevaluation and the success of the Cantabrian Sea pilot project. The proposal was folded into the Chair’s revised proposal to amend [Rec. 22-08](#) and the revised “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

8.1.2 Bluefin tuna farming

Japan tabled the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-08 on the monitoring of bluefin tuna farming”. Japan noted discrepancies between their calculated growth rate of bluefin tuna using information from electronic bluefin tuna catch documents (eBCDs) and the SCRS growth rate table. The proposal calls for updates to the SCRS growth rate tables by 2027 and introduces Artificial Intelligence (AI) based analysis for monitoring caging activities starting in 2028, with a review and advice on such technology by the SCRS in 2027.

Some CPCs welcomed the application of AI for monitoring caging activities, but noted that the system cannot be made operational until the SCRS has confirmed its reliability and conformity to science standards. CPCs agreed on the need to test the AI based stereoscopic camera analysis. The proposal was folded into the Chair’s revised proposal to amend [Rec. 22-08](#) that was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

8.1.3 Derogation in the Gulf of Lion

Regarding the minimum fish size requirement (para 33 of [Rec. 22-08](#)) applicable to small-scale coastal vessels, the EU presented its proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” to amend Annex 1 of [Rec. 22-08](#) to:

- 1) increase the percentage for the derogation, as established in paragraph 34(b), from 2% of a CPC’s quota to 4% for the specific region of the Gulf of Lion, and

- 2) allow for an increase of up to 10% in the registry of small-scale coastal vessels in that region, as compared to the number of vessels recorded in 2008.

The proposal was adopted by Panel 2 and folded into the Chair's revised proposal to amend [Rec. 22-08](#) that was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

8.1.4 Proposal for amendments to the Chair's proposal

The EU tabled a "Proposal for amendments to ICCAT PA2_605/2024 - Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean"; it would introduce a few additional amendments, remove outdated provisions, and add several new provisions. CPCs noted that some issues that related to quota transfers between CPCs would be discussed again in 2025 during the next TAC negotiation, including quota transfer from Iceland to the EU due to Iceland's ongoing subjection to force majeure. Text regarding this transfer as well as some other elements of the EU's proposal were folded into the Chair's revised proposal with the understanding that the quota transfer issue in general would be discussed at the 2025 annual meeting, which was submitted to the Plenary for adoption. The proposal to replace human observers with electronic monitoring for towing activities was discussed but ultimately not included in the Chair's revised proposal.

8.1.5 eBCD products

Albania raised concern about their bluefin tuna products being refused by CPCs when the forms are validated by an inspector rather than an observer. A CPC suggested that the issue be addressed by the PWG but Albania indicated that it understood from discussions at the PWG that the issue should be addressed within Panel 2. After requesting that the PWG Chair clarify the situation, the Panel 2 Chair suggested that this concern be noted in the report and that the issue be forwarded to the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) for discussion.

8.2 Pilot project for farming bluefin tuna in the Cantabrian Sea

The EU presented its proposal "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 23-08 for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Cantabrian Sea". The pilot project approved in [Rec. 23-08](#) was unable to be carried out in the initially anticipated 2024 timeline, and thus, the new proposal sought to extend the project to 2025, now that the project has received the necessary environmental permits and internal EU approvals. The proposal was adopted and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

8.3 Allocation of quotas for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The UK submitted the document "Towards a more equitable allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna – continued" and the European Union submitted a "Position paper on the bluefin tuna discussion at the 2024 ICCAT Annual Meeting Contribution to Panel 2, Agenda X" to discuss allocation on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Panel 2 discussed these papers and agreed to allocate one whole day to further discuss this issue during the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2025.

8.4 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

The European Union tabled a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-10 for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna". The EU explained its view that because the eastern and western bluefin tuna stocks have very similar management objectives and a joint management procedure, the management measures should be in alignment. Some CPCs expressed that the proposal was a surprise and that they could not discuss the proposal at this meeting without having had the ability to conduct prior consultations with the EU. Those CPCs pointed to the substantive differences between the two stocks and conditions that led to the eastern bluefin tuna management currently in effect. It was determined that CPCs might be willing to consider the proposal in another year, and the proposal was withdrawn.

8.5 *Mediterranean albacore*

The EU presented its proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore”. The proposal suggests a precautionary approach to maintain the TAC through 2025. It also calls for an SCRS stock assessment by 2026 as well as updates on the timeline for other SCRS work.

A statement was made by Tunisia (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8**), reporting on 2025 Mediterranean albacore landings and requesting an increased quota. The statement was later converted into a joint proposal “Mediterranean albacore quota request” between Tunisia and Algeria in which both CPCs requested a Mediterranean albacore quota of 150 t, citing improvements in data reporting. Tunisia and Algeria stated that established quotas would allow them to properly distribute the quota among vessels and foster better data collection. One CPC noted that its coastal communities had made sacrifices to ensure the stock’s conservation and requested that its quota not be lowered. Another CPC cautioned against raising the TAC to accommodate the proposal before more data could be assessed by the SCRS. Algeria noted its intention to establish a complete monitoring plan so that it can be included in the allocation table in the future. Panel 2 discussed these proposals and produced a revised “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the ICCAT Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore”, which was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

Panel 2 confirmed that the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)*, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 22-05)* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Cantabrian Sea (Rec. 23-08)* shall be repealed and replaced by new recommendations. The *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 23-06)*, which was incorporated into the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, shall be also repealed.

10. Other matters

The Chair acknowledged Norway’s “Report from the Norwegian pilot project for short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in 2024” and noted that Norway would submit another progress update to the 2025 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2.

The Chair noted that the “Follow up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 2” had been updated by the ICCAT Secretariat. With no further comments from CPCs, the document was endorsed by Panel 2.

The Chair introduced the document “Regulations and other related documents adopted by all concerned Contracting Parties to implement Recommendation 22-08”. The Secretariat noted that it would check to ensure that all CPC information was accurately reflected therein. A revised version was produced.

Moreover, a joint statement was submitted to Panel 2 by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and the Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP) which is contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

8.3 Report of the Meeting of Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr Qayiso Kenneth Mketsu (South Africa), the Chair of Panel 3.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr Michael Peel (United Kingdom) was appointed rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) was adopted with no changes.

4. Review of Panel membership

There were no changes to the Panel membership, which remains at sixteen.

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

The SCRS Chair reported on the status of the South Atlantic albacore (ALB-S) stock. According to the SCRS, the stock is in a very healthy state, being neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. The SCRS analysis indicated that maintaining constant catches of 28,000 t would yield an 83% probability of the stock remaining in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2033. For the 2022-2023 period, catches of ALB-S remained below the established Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

The SCRS Chair also noted that management of southern bluefin tuna falls under the purview of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and provided a reference to its [“Report on biology, stock status and management of southern bluefin tuna: 2024”](#).

The SCRS Chair opened the floor for comments and questions.

5.1 Research

The proposed workplan for the Atlantic albacore stock is as follows:

a) Stock assessment

The SCRS Chair reminded the Panel of the details of the southern Atlantic albacore (ALB-S) workplan which comprises starting development of a stock synthesis model that could be the basis for a future MSE, and research activities within the Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP).

b) Research activities

The SCRS reiterated the need to continue research activities within the ALBYP. The priority for 2025 is to continue the reproductive biology (with the associated ageing of samples).

The SCRS recommended continued funding of the ALBYP for the North and South Atlantic stocks.

Estimate costs are provided below for what are considered to be the high priority tasks:

- i. €32,750 for tagging (€7,750 for South);
- ii. €32,500 for reproductive biology, related ageing and sampling (€27,500 for South).

The floor was opened for comments and questions, however there were no questions from the Panel.

6. Review of Compliance Tables

The Panel reviewed the Compliance Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**) noted no discrepancies.

Some CPCs noted that they had, prior to the meeting, notified the ICCAT Secretariat of their desire to carry over their quota underage(s) for 2025 in accordance with paragraphs 4a and 4b of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026 (Rec. 22-06)*, and Japan noted the terms of paragraph 4 b) of this Recommendation “the total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota”. In light of this, Chinese Taipei and Japan requested an additional 20.65% and 9.08% respectively to complement their quotas to reach the maximum allowable limit of 25% of its original quota. This request was granted based on the figures provided by the ICCAT Secretariat, which confirmed that an additional 3723.55 t was available after several CPCs had confirmed their notifications to carry over their underages.

The following CPCs expressed their intention to carry over their quota underage(s) for 2025: Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union, Japan, Korea, Philippines, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei.

7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities (Res. 15-13)*

South Africa presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore”. South Africa urged CPCs to take a proactive long-term approach to the management of the stock, with a focus on developing CPCs, via the adoption of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).

The following conceptual management objectives were to be considered: a) Stock Status; b) Safety, high probability of residing in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot; c) Yield; and d) Stability. Additionally, the draft Recommendation stipulated that the candidate management objectives may be rejected, modified, or supplemented as appropriate by the Panel and that they will be forwarded to the SCRS Albacore Species Group for review through the MSE process. Finally, it stated that the Panel would provide its recommendations for final management objectives at the 2025 annual meeting.

Discussions and responses

Brazil thanked South Africa for its presentation and supported the underlying principles but proposed a step-by-step approach.

Japan expressed agreement with the implementation of an MSE for southern Atlantic albacore but raised concerns about the ambitious timeline. It noted that the Commission is already engaged with MSEs for northern swordfish and western skipjack, and Panel 1 has initiated work on a multi-stock tropical tunas MSE. Japan also highlighted the absence of numerical targets for Stock Status, Safety, and Stability in the proposal, noting the merit of defining minimum values as a guideline to the SCRS, and sought clarification on the basis for the timelines in paragraph 2 (short, medium, and long-term) and their linkage to biological characteristics. Japan also indicated that requiring final management objective recommendations by 2025 was overly ambitious.

Chinese Taipei voiced its support for the proposal.

The European Union echoed Japan's concerns about the timeline and the need for linkage to the MSE roadmap. It also supported Japan's call for inclusion of numerical targets in the proposal.

The SCRS Chair expressed concern about the timeline, emphasizing that the proposal was not included in the current SCRS workplan, and highlighting existing capacity and workload constraints.

The United States concurred with the SCRS Chair, Japan, and the EU regarding the ambitious timeline and non-binding language of the proposal. It emphasized that SCRS priorities should not be jeopardized and suggested revising the proposal as a non-binding resolution to align it with other similar conceptual management objective proposals that have been adopted by the Commission. The United States also recommended a step-by-step approach, sufficient time allocation, and greater dialogue between Panel 3 and the SCRS.

South Africa acknowledged the ambitious nature of the proposed timeline and expressed openness to alternative timelines. However, it stressed the importance of not delaying action, citing the challenges faced with northern albacore management as a cautionary example. South Africa clarified that the figures in the proposal were intended as starting points and expressed willingness to consider revisions. On SCRS capacity concerns, South Africa noted that additional resources could be mobilized to support the process.

The SCRS Chair indicated that if an MSE for southern albacore proceeds, a resolution outlining detailed management objectives and timelines would be beneficial.

Japan suggested the following specific numerical targets for inclusion in the proposal: Stock Status - A preference for 60% or greater, with simulations to include 50%; Projection timeframe - 10 or 15 years (subject to scientific input), Safety - 15% probability, and TAC variation – no more than 20 or 30%.

These suggestions were met with general agreement, with Brazil supporting Japan's input. The European Union stated that it had no strong opinion on the proposed figures but emphasized the need to define B_{LIM} (stability).

South Africa reiterated the importance of starting with a clear framework to avoid future management challenges. It emphasized that the roadmap as it stands does not preclude the development of a harvest control rule (HCR) for southern Atlantic albacore and noted the flexibility of proposed figures based on the SCRS workload. It committed to revising the proposal in light of the feedback received and submitting an updated version.

During the second session of Panel 3, South Africa tabled the revised "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial operational management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore". South Africa explained that the revised version incorporated feedback from Brazil, the European Union, Japan, and the United States. Key updates included the following:

- Specifying a 30-year projection period for the MSE;
- Removing yield objectives to align with other MSEs;
- Revising B_{LIM} to 40% of MSY , ensuring consistency with values in the northern albacore, western skipjack, and swordfish MSEs;
- Changing the target implementation date for the management procedure (MP) to 2028;
- Amending the proposal from a recommendation to a resolution, although South Africa indicated openness to reverting it to a recommendation, noting that the numbers were specified.

On SCRS capacity and funding, South Africa highlighted the availability of external funding sources and welcomed additional support to supplement SCRS efforts.

Feedback and discussions

The Chair of Panel 3 opened the floor for feedback on the revised draft proposal and sought input on whether it should remain a resolution.

Japan supported the revised version, contingent on the removal of brackets, and agreed that a resolution was more appropriate given the non-binding language.

Brazil expressed support for the draft resolution.

The European Union voiced concerns regarding the proposed timeline, suggesting that 2029 would be a more realistic target for completing the stock assessment, given the high workload anticipated for 2026.

The United States supported the proposal's designation as a resolution and the adjusted timeline.

The SCRS Chair recommended specifying a preference for the management period length, noting that three-year periods are typically used.

South Africa committed to considering the proposed amendments and reaffirmed its confidence in the resolution's ability to address the socio-economic needs of coastal States. It agreed to adopt a three-year management cycle and supported further alignment of the timeline, emphasizing flexibility to meet the consensus of Panel 3.

The Chair of Panel 3 summarized the discussions, and confirmed agreement to remove brackets from the resolution, inclusion of a three-year management cycle and adoption of 2029 as the target date for adoption.

The revised "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial operational management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore" was adopted.

The Chair then opened discussion on the "Draft South albacore MSE Roadmap".

The SCRS Chair highlighted that the proposed 2025 timeline is unlikely to be achievable. He also recommended deleting the last line referencing the initial development of candidate MPs and preliminary CMP performance results.

Japan supported the SCRS Chair's view, suggesting that the 2025 activities should simply state that the Commission will be informed of SCRS work and provide feedback.

The European Union agreed with the current draft proposal but proposed moving the 2025 activities listed in the two bullets to 2026, to align with the completion of the stock assessment.

Japan supported the EU's proposal and raised concerns about the feasibility of the 2027 milestones, recommending the deletion of the adoption of an MP at the 2027 annual meeting.

The SCRS Chair suggested extending the roadmap to 2029, noting that the current structure aims for delivery by 2027.

Japan pointed out a lack of clarity regarding the activities in 2029 and beyond, proposing that an update on progress be added for 2028.

The SCRS Chair endorsed Japan's suggestion and proposed adding Panel 3 to the SCRS development line for 2029.

Japan noted the absence of text regarding the Commission finalizing the MP from candidate scenarios and recommended including language in the last row of the timetable to address this, contingent on developments in preceding years.

Brazil proposed deleting the mention of an ambassadors' meeting, as decisions on CMPs should be made during Panel 3 meetings.

The SCRS Chair agreed with Brazil, affirming that Panel 3 is the appropriate venue for CMP decisions. On Japan's comment about 2028, he suggested adding the phrase "the year following the adoption of the MP" along with provisions for exceptional circumstances (ECs).

Japan accepted these changes but reserved the right to revisit the timetable during broader discussions on the MSE roadmap for other species, given the fact that there was not enough time provided for the CPCs to review the document.

The Chair of Panel 3 stated that since the roadmap is a living document, aspects such as the timeline and the initial candidate management procedure testing can be adjusted by the SCRS accordingly as it is a part of the SCRS roadmap. Additionally, the SCRS will work with Panel 3 to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol (ECP). He further requested South Africa to work with the European Union and Japan and agree on a revised timetable which will be tabled at the Plenary. A revised version was produced.

8. Identification of outdated measures in light of 7 above

It was noted that the current southern Atlantic albacore measure is *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023 to 2026 (Rec. 22-06)*. No CPCs intervened.

9. Other matters

A statement was submitted to Panel 3 by Pew Charitable Trusts, which is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was decided that the Report of Panel 3 would be adopted by correspondence. The meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

8.4 Report of the Meeting of Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 4, Mr Amar Ouchelli (Algeria).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Dr Chelsea Gray (United States) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary announced that Costa Rica became a member of both ICCAT and Panel 4. There are now 53 members of ICCAT. Panel 4 comprises the following 43 members: Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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

Dr Craig Brown, Chair of the SCRS, presented information on the status of billfish, sharks, swordfish, and small tunas and the state of the SCRS management strategy evaluation (MSE) projects. There were no comments on the report of the SCRS.

Swordfish, including MSE

Dr Brown updated the Panel on catch trends for the three swordfish stocks, the “North Atlantic swordfish MSE results and decision guide” including the performance of the 5 remaining candidate management procedures (CMPs) and the MSE work planned for 2025 and beyond. A revised version of the “North Atlantic swordfish MSE results and decision guide” was produced.

Dr Brown updated the Panel on the status of research under the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP), where he highlighted challenges for swordfish assessment, including the fact that the stock structure is highly uncertain right now, due to challenges related to aging the fish and unclear mortality of discards. The SCRS is currently working on establishing spatial-temporal distributions of all three known swordfish stocks, as well as resolving age and size at maturity and age composition of catch to validate growth curves. Dr Brown summarized the results of the 2024 SCRS intersessional meetings related to swordfish.

Blue marlin

Dr Brown reported that catches of blue marlin increased in 2023 compared to 2022, to 2,068 t. The 2024 stock assessment results showed that the current stock of blue marlin is overfished but not subject to overfishing, with a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) calculated to be 3,331 t. There continues to be high uncertainty with regard to catch (landings and dead discards) data and the productivity of the stock. In 2020, the Commission set a limit of 1,670 t for blue marlin, but this was exceeded in 2020 through 2023. The SCRS recommended that the Commission maintain or lower the current 1,670 t landings limit until the increasing biomass trend observed in the 2024 stock assessment is confirmed at the next blue marlin assessment. The SCRS further recommended that any landings limit shall correspond to true catch limits (i.e. landings and dead discards).

Other billfish

Dr Brown summarized the billfish workplan for 2025, including an anticipated white marlin stock assessment using data through 2023, and the recommendations from the Billfish Species Group, which recommended continued funding of the Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research and the programme's research priorities for 2025.

Sharks

The catch of South Atlantic shortfin mako decreased from 2022 to 2023 to 1,355 t, while North Atlantic shortfin mako catch increased from 2022 to 2023 to 1,108 t. North Atlantic blue shark catches have been below the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) since 2018, while South Atlantic blue shark catches have been 10-20% above the TAC since 2018. Porbeagle shark catches have been low since 2018.

Dr Brown summarized the work of the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme and the 2025 workplan and research plan for sharks, which includes a stock assessment for shortfin mako. The need to fund continued research, including tagging, was highlighted.

Small tuna

Dr Brown gave an overview of the status of small tuna, with age, growth, and reproductive studies for Atlantic bonito, little tunny, and wahoo to be completed in 2025. The current nominal landings of small tunas were estimated to be 129,931 t in 2023, with 30% of catches coming from the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch

Dr Brown concluded his presentation with a discussion of the SCRS recommendations and financial implications from the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, including a workshop on the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles in the Mediterranean, bycatch species tagging, and expanded climate and oceanographic ecosystems indicators.

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

The Chair of Panel 4 reminded that the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 was postponed twice to allow for more time to finish the additional work on the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE, and was ultimately held in October 2024. At the intersessional meeting, the final results of the MSE were presented. The combined index was updated in 2024 using data through 2022, and was used to determine the potential TACs for 2025 and beyond resulting from the candidate management procedures (CMPs). Panel 4 reiterated its agreement to a management objective of 60% or greater likelihood of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix (PGK). Of the five CMPs presented, two CMPs were discarded. Five CMP variants were selected from the remaining CMPs to be discussed at the Annual Meeting in November 2024, including 'b' variants tuned to 60% PGK and 'c' variants tuned to 70% PGK. The 5 CMP variants were: MCC9_b, MCC9_c, MCC11_b, MCC11_c, and SPSSFox_b.

There were no questions. The [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#) was approved.

7. Review of compliance tables

The Chair noted that Egypt and Libya have reported catches of Mediterranean swordfish in recent years that exceed the allocated reserve for CPCs without a quota. This issue was identified and requires review and discussion within Panel 4.

A “Statement from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines regarding concerns about landing limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish” (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8**) was submitted, which also related to calculation of overharvest and payback, as well as landings limits, for blue marlin and white marlin under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05). Some other CPCs agreed with the concerns expressed.

8. Consideration of progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish

After the SCRS MSE discussion of the five CMP variants agreed upon at the October Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 and their results, under agenda items 5 and 6, the Panel selected MCC11_b as the final management procedure (MP) b. The operational management objectives and the MP implementation schedule were finalized through the proposed North Atlantic swordfish measure discussed under agenda item 9. Other specifications for the MP are discussed below.

9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13)

North Atlantic swordfish

The EU and United States introduced a co-sponsored “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish” and Canada introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a conservation and management plan for North Atlantic swordfish”, both of which revised and added language to the current *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02) to adopt and implement an MP. The proponents worked together and with other CPCs towards a joint proposal, including adopting the MCC11_b MP with the resulting increased TAC and revisions to CPC-specific catch limits. Canada presented a new “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish”, which built off the previous two proposals, and the United States and the EU withdrew their proposal. Many CPCs expressed concern with increased catch limits only benefiting some parties and about small harvesters not getting adequate allocation even with an increase in TAC. Costa Rica submitted a statement (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8**) and Liberia submitted “Request for North Atlantic swordfish Liberia position on PA4-809/2024 and PA4-810/2024” (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8**), expressing their need for allocation. Costa Rica was granted 75 t, and the Panel agreed to consider an allocation for Liberia in 2026 and 2027, if a fishing plan is submitted to the 2025 annual meeting. Some CPCs also expressed concern that the sum of the catch limits exceeded the TAC. Ultimately, a proposal co-sponsored by Canada, the United States, the EU, and Morocco was submitted to the Plenary for consideration.

Mediterranean swordfish

In 2023, no consensus was reached on Egypt’s proposed “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the establishment of catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish for Egypt” (PA4_824/2023). This year, the Chair of Panel 4 presented the document “Mediterranean swordfish catch limit (to be discussed under agenda item 9)”, which refers to excess catches. The Chair of Panel 4 indicated that the issues must be reviewed by the Panel. Egypt and Libya introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish” that proposed establishing catch limits of 125 t each. Several CPCs supported Egypt’s proposal, while one CPC expressed concerns that an increase in catch would be counter to the aim of the TAC, which has a goal of rebuilding the stock. This CPC wanted more data on recovery efforts before increasing any catches. Egypt clarified that the request would not affect the allocation of any other CPC’s allocation. A revised version of the proposal was referred to the Plenary for further discussion.

Sharks

The EU submitted a “Proposed Roadmap for the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for blue shark” on adding blue sharks to the MSE Roadmap, proposing that this was necessary to fulfill the commitments made by ICCAT under Recs. 16-12, 19-07 and the [Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-07 on management measures for the conservation of North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) (Res. 23-10) (for the North Atlantic stock), and Rec. 19-08 and the [Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of the South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) (Rec. 23-11) (for the South Atlantic stock). Other CPCs expressed concern about the capacity of the SCRS to address this MSE on top of MSE work already included in the Roadmap and other duties. Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), observer organizations, expressed strong support for including the blue shark MSE in the Roadmap. This document was sent to Plenary, for further discussion of how this work would impact the other work that must be conducted by the SCRS, as part of a larger MSE discussion.

The EU and UK submitted a document on “Whale sharks and mobulid rays caught in association with ICCAT fisheries – Entry into force of ICCAT Recommendations 23-12 and 23-14”, which summarized evidence presented at the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch and at the Shark Species Group and the SCRS advice that the Commission give full effect to the [Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks \(*Rhincodon typus*\) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) (Rec. 23-12) and the [Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays \(family mobulidae\) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) (Rec. 23-14) (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**). The document recommended that these recommendations enter into force in 2025. The document was endorsed by the Panel and submitted to the Plenary for adoption. Observer organizations The Shark Trust, Ecology Action Centre, and The Ocean Foundation appreciated broad and strong support for the proposal and stated that this will close the gap in global protections in tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The EU presented its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation and management of sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”, which proposed to combine 12 existing shark Recommendations and Resolutions in order to simplify reporting in the Shark Check Sheet. While many CPCs expressed support for the measure as it streamlines shark Recommendations, several CPCs also raised concerns about ensuring that the measure does not weaken any of the existing ICCAT measures. Two CPCs also opposed the inclusion of a provision that requires sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached and the ban on sale of certain shark species (bigeye thresher sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks, and hammerhead sharks), although the sale prohibition is in some of the existing Recommendations. The Panel agreed that the proposal needed more development, despite its progress. A revised version was produced. No consensus was reached, although the EU stated it would table the proposal next year.

The United States introduced, on behalf of numerous cosponsors, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT” that requires sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries to be landed with their fins naturally attached. The United States emphasized the conservative life history of sharks and how important it is for shark fins to remain attached through landing to improve species-specific data collection and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures. A revised version was produced. Although the proposal received a total of 42 co-sponsors and broad support from CPCs, one CPC reiterated its opposition to the measure mainly due to its practical difficulty. However, it did express a willingness to review shark finning measures potentially adopted at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in late 2024 and consider a related proposal at ICCAT in 2025. Other CPCs clearly stated that ICCAT is an independent body and need not depend or wait on advancements in other RFMOs to take action. The Panel was not in a position to achieve consensus on the proposal and the document was not approved. Then following the request of a CPC, it was referred to Plenary. Multiple observer organizations encouraged ICCAT to take action for the conservation of sharks by adopting this draft Recommendation.

The UK introduced a discussion paper on the “Conservation of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”. Given that high levels of catch and mortality of shortfin mako continue under implementation of the [Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries](#) (Rec. 21-09), the UK proposed that an intersessional meeting of Panel 4 be held early in 2025 to replace the 2023 meeting specified in [Rec. 21-09](#) that did not occur, to discuss methods of reducing shortfin mako mortality and enhance potential scientific advice

following the 2025 stock assessment. The UK proposed either a standalone intersessional meeting or a meeting to take place in conjunction with the Shortfin Mako Data Preparatory Meeting. However, one CPC did not support this idea and the Panel was not able to achieve consensus so no intersessional meeting was scheduled. The UK urged parties to fully comply with the existing reporting requirements under [Rec. 21-09](#). Observer organizations Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (German Foundation for Marine Conservation) and Pew Charitable Trusts expressed displeasure that there was little support for the meeting and encouraged the Panel members to continue to find solutions to shortfin mako mortality.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above

The Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT), Dr Bryan Keller, reported on the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Group to Address Redundancy in Reporting Requirements. It suggests combining shark measures to simplify shark reporting and the Shark Check Sheet. This concept was proposed by the EU in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation and management of sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”. A revised version was produced. One CPC reiterated the need for this is indeed very important work, as reducing administrative burden and streamlining reporting requirements are both extremely important and undervalued.

11. Research

The SCRS Chair gave a presentation on ongoing research programmes, using slides from the Swordfish Species Group meeting. The SCRS Chair also highlighted that there is uncertainty related to the impact of trap-line gear, and the SCRS desired to do more research in the Mediterranean. There are reports that the gear has higher catches and is expanding in use, but more data are needed to assess the gear’s impact on population estimates provided by the SCRS.

12. Other matters

Statements were submitted to Panel 4 by Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sostenible y Seguridad Alimentaria (ALPESCAS) (Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security), Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (German Foundation for Marine Conservation), Pew Charitable Trusts, Sciaena, and The Ocean Foundation, which are contained in **Appendices 12-16 to ANNEX 8**.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Panel agreed to adopt the report by correspondence. The Chair thanked the meeting participants, interpreters, and Secretariat and adjourned the meeting.

Panel Agendas

Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Consideration of progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for western skipjack and Tropical Tunas multi-stocks
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the [*Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities \(Res. 15-13\)*](#)
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), including research
6. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the [*Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities \(Res. 15-13\)*](#)
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
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. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
 - 5.1 Research
6. Review of compliance tables
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Res. 15-13)*
8. Identification of outdated measures in light of 7 above
9. Other matters
10. 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. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Consideration of progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Res. 15-13)*
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 1 by Ghana

It is an honour to be granted the opportunity to make a statement at the 24th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which is being held in the beautiful city of Limassol in Cyprus. I am grateful to the Chairperson and Executive Secretary of ICCAT for the opportunity.

Let me use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Cyprus for hosting this important meeting and for the hospitality accorded me and my delegation since our arrival in Cyprus. It takes hard work and planning to organize such a meeting, and I say AYEKOO (meaning well done) to everyone who has contributed to making this meeting a success.

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and good people of Ghana on the occasion of the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT and wish you a successful meeting.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the fisheries sector plays a significant role in our government's socio-economic agenda. Over three (3) million people are employed along the sector's value chain in Ghana. In 2023, the industry contributed over 684,000 metric tons of fish to the national food and nutritional security, with the per capita consumption of fish estimated at 20 kg. Again, in 2023, the country earned over USD 420 million from the export of fish and fishery products.

It is worthy of note that over 80% of foreign exchange earnings from the export of fish and fishery products was contributed by the tuna subsector; given this, the Government is committed to sustainable management of the tuna resources in the Atlantic Ocean for the good of our country,

ICCAT is the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization mandated and tasked with the responsibility for the sustainable exploitation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. It is for this reason that the Government of Ghana pays a keen interest in the outcomes of ICCAT meetings, especially recommendations adopted for the management of the skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and billfish, the leading resource base of our tuna industry.

The recommendations of ICCAT are based on science, so my government has no problem implementing them. Currently, my country is implementing, among others, the following ICCAT Recommendations: i) close area and a moratorium on the use of FAD; ii) deployment of observers on tuna vessels; iii) TAC allocation of bigeye tuna; (iv) the Vessel Monitoring System.

The Government of Ghana is confident in ICCAT's ability to deliver on its mandate, and we know ICCAT would make Member States proud. Ghana will continue to play its role as a Contracting Party to ensure the organization's success.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 1 by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)

The Pew Charitable Trusts would like to commend all members who have worked intersessionally on the draft recommendation for a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas. We urge members to include measures for improved FAD management, relaunch the regional observer program, and increase observer coverage for vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic.

While we understand that the tropical tunas measure is a key priority for most CPCs, we encourage members to also consider other work that has progressed in Panel 1. One such effort is proposed in [PA1- 506](#) for the adoption of conceptual management objectives for the multi-stock management strategy evaluation (MSE). This proposal helps address the 2024 SCRS Report's request to the Commission for feedback on management objectives at this annual meeting, which states that *"Such objectives are essential for a successful multi-stock MSE process."* As this is the second year that the proposal has been brought to Panel 1 at the Commission meeting, we urge members to endorse it for adoption, including the provision on evaluating the impact of juvenile mortality on potential yields.

Another key item due for Panel 1 deliberation is the management procedure (MP) for western Atlantic skipjack. Members have an opportunity to adopt an MP this year for implementation in 2026, contingent on SCRS feedback and Panel 1 input on TAC application, per proposal [PA1_511](#). No CPCs have expressed opposition to moving forward this year and as such, we urge the main fishing nations to lead work within Panel 1 to adopt an MP for western skipjack this year in accordance with the MSE workplan. Significantly, this would be the first tropical tuna MP in the Atlantic Ocean and will lay the foundation for more progress in the management of other Atlantic tropical tunas.

Finally, we acknowledge the results of the yellowfin tuna stock assessment and remind CPCs of the decade long disregard for the yellowfin tuna TAC. We urge Panel 1 to maintain a TAC with no less than a 60% probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and develop a yellowfin tuna allocation key as an urgent priority, to ensure that the catch no longer exceeds the TAC.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 1 by Sciaena

Ensure sustainable management of bigeye tuna

In 2024, we expect ICCAT to finally adopt a much-delayed measure for tropical tuna, which must take into account the signs of recovery of the bigeye tuna (BET) stock, but also contemplate the uncertainties that persist in the assessment. Sciaena believes it is crucial that the new measure needs to give the stock the best probabilities of staying in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix, and provide a solid basis for the upcoming years, and we believe the Chair's proposal PA1_505 sets the Commission on a positive track to finally end the long-standing stalemate on tropical tunas.

Sciaena recommends that the TAC for BET does not exceed 73,000 t, in order to give an increased probability of the stock not being overfished or under overfishing in future years.

To help prevent overfishing, we are hopeful that CPCs will be able to define a new allocation key that includes all fleets, taking into account historical catches but also the aspirations of developing countries, as well as criteria such as reduced juvenile mortality and other factors that have negative impacts on the stock and the ecosystem it depends on.

Sciaena urges CPCs to maintain or enhance the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management measures which are in place;

- Maintaining the FAD closure at 72 days;
- Establish a limit of 275 FADs per vessel or lower;
- Introduce requirements on FAD non-entanglement and biodegradability;
- Adopt measures to increase accountability for FAD sets (such as a FAD registry and a FAD marking scheme).

In order to increase the transparency and improve the management of tropical tuna fisheries, Sciaena supports proposals that aim to increase observer and remote electronic monitoring coverage of the fleets that catch BET and other tropical tuna species, as well as additional restrictions and monitoring on at-sea transshipments.

Finally, Sciaena believes that the TAC for yellowfin tuna shall not exceed 120.000 t.

Sciaena also urges Panel 1 to decisively move towards the development and adoption of a Tropical Tuna MSE in 2025, by adopting an intersessional work plan for this purpose. We therefore welcome proposal PA1_506 and ask CPCs to endorse and adopt it. We also welcome proposal PA1_508, but we urge a minimum of 60% PGK to be included.

Adopt a Western Skipjack Management Procedure

We considered the adoption of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the western skipjack stock to be of high priority for this year's annual meeting. Hence, we support proposal PA1_511.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 2 by Tunisia

In accordance with Tunisia's commitments under the framework of international conventions concerning the sustainable management of marine resources, we wish to inform you, as stated in our Annual Report sent to the ICCAT Secretariat on 14 September 2024, that albacore tuna landings have been recorded in Tunisian ports and that, as of October 2024, the quantities were around 110 t.

These landings were recorded following a national program to strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance of landings. According to observations and reports, albacore landings are mainly from longline catches.

To ensure sustainable exploitation of this resource, and given the importance that Tunisia grants this species in its sustainable management program for fishery resources, an initiative based on scientific monitoring by the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies has been in place since the beginning of this year. This initiative aims to strengthen and collect data on Mediterranean albacore.

In view of the measures taken by Tunisia and in order to control albacore fishing, we request the Commission to grant us an annual quota of 150 t of Mediterranean albacore.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Joint statement to Panel 2 by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and the Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP)

The process of purse-seine fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna and the subsequent caging operations is a relatively complex and constantly evolving from an operational point of view. Fish are caught from around the Mediterranean basin and often transported to different farming locations, a process that can take several weeks.

Final quantification of the biomass from each fishing operation cannot occur until the analysis of stereoscopic camera footage from the transfer of fish from towing cages to farming cages is complete. Unfortunately, this means that there can be considerable delays, often stretching into weeks, between the actual fishing event and the processing of this footage.

Given that purse-seine fishing operations generally need to be concluded within a 36-day window for the western Mediterranean (from May 26 to July 1), it is highly difficult to finalize the caging of fish captured during this timeframe. Therefore, definitive figures regarding the quantities of fish caught will typically not be available until the end of the fishing season. Additionally, it is important to consider that adverse weather conditions may lead to inactive fishing days. This makes the practical process of redistributing unutilised fishing quotas within the fishing season a very difficult process.

Recently, there have been instances where unutilised fishing quotas could not be effectively redistributed within the fishing season. Having to release excess catches by a CPC that still has available quotas/quantities of uncaught fish within its allocation, that could compensate for that virtual excess is an unofficial penalisation on that CPC making the most efficient use of the allocated quota. Certainly, this is not the scope of Recommendation 22-08 and the effective redistribution of unutilised fishing quotas will in no manner effect the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures foreseen in the Recommendation.

Therefore, we support all those measures that will allow the CPC to redistribute unutilized fishing quotas after the fishing season is concluded, thereby compensating for any excess catches of bluefin tuna, provided that the total quota allocated to that CPC is not exceeded.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**Statement to Panel 3 by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on important work being considered by Panel 3 at the 24th Special meeting of the ICCAT Commission. This year, there is only one proposal for Panel 3 to progress – the adoption of conceptual management objectives for south Atlantic albacore.

Pew urges Panel 3 to adopt “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for southern Atlantic Albacore” ([PA3_701/2024](#)) proposed by South Africa. The proposal reflects the discussions we have heard from scientists and stakeholders who are interested in pursuing Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) given recent issues with the Stock Assessment and requirements of ecolabels. These management objectives can help guide the future development of an MSE that would ensure long-term sustainable fisheries of South Atlantic albacore. Note that there is external funding and technical expertise available to support a South Atlantic albacore MSE, if desired, so as to minimize ICCAT resources needed for this effort.

With all this in mind, we urge members to also add South Atlantic albacore to the MSE roadmap in Plenary as part of ICCAT’s continued commitment to modernizing its fisheries management approach.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8**Joint statement to Panel 4 by Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines regarding concerns about landing limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish**

Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago would like to express their deepest appreciation to the European Union and Cyprus for hosting the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT. We would also like to thank the Executive Secretary, Mr Manel, and the Secretariat for their excellent work and support throughout the year and for the preparation of this meeting.

Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago would like to bring to attention their concerns regarding ICCAT’s treatment of overharvesting of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish by small-island developing States, under Recommendation 19-05.

Blue marlin and white marlin support both recreational and commercially important fisheries and livelihoods in the Caribbean, and also contribute to food security. As a result of declining populations, ICCAT [Recommendation 19-05](#) sets an annual limit of 1,670 t for blue marlin and of 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish with effect from 2020. Recommendation 19-05 also sets out that any excess of landings limits in any given year shall be deducted from the respective limits during or before the adjustment year, with an additional reduction by at least 125% of the excess harvest if the prescribed landings limits are exceeded during two consecutive years. Recommendation 19-05 also indicates that beginning with 2020 catches, under-harvest of limits may not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

Over the period of the ICCAT rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, annual catches of marlins for Caribbean countries have often been above the prescribed annual limits due to a number of factors, with the main one being that fishing occurs in marlin-rich waters. Therefore, while marlins may not be the target species in some instances, they are not discarded because of their commercial value as well as importance for food security and traditional local consumption.

The 2024 blue marlin stock assessment indicated that the current stock status is overfished but not subject to overfishing¹. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago support the recommendation of the 2024 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to adopt limits corresponding to true catch (i.e., landings + dead discards) instead of adopting limits (such as those in Rec. 19-05). Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago also agree on the importance of CPCs reporting total catch of blue marlin (i.e., landings and dead discards). In this regard, we are participating in the regional Global Environment Facility (GEF) project “Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)” which directly addresses discards data collection and monitoring for our longline fleets.

¹ https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2024/Reports/2024_SCRS_ENG.pdf

Regarding Atlantic white marlin, the results of the 2019 assessment indicated that the stock was overfished but not undergoing overfishing¹. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago share the Committee's concern about the status of white marlin due to misidentification of roundscale spearfish which adds uncertainty to the stock assessment results. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago strongly agree that:

- Measures should be taken to ensure complete monitoring and reporting of all landings and discards, including live releases; and
- Efforts should be made to fully account for the artisanal and recreational catches.

Based on the distribution and biological characteristics of the stocks in areas under national jurisdiction, historical landings, interests, fishing patterns and practices, and contribution to food security, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago re-emphasize that marlin limits should be adopted corresponding to true catch. Furthermore, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago are deeply concerned over the application of an additional 25% penalty of phantom catch overage, noting that as worded in Rec. 19-05, regardless of whether a CPC manages to constrain subsequent annual landings to below the allotted annual limits, the accrued adjusted landing limits will continue to be reduced in each successive year on a compound basis.

As such the CPC is perpetually punished with no realistic mechanism for relief or reward for efforts to compliantly restrict annual catches, as well as making any viable payback plan within a reasonable time frame impossible. This methodology is therefore grossly prejudicial to the food security and livelihood of small-island developing coastal States whose fishing communities are greatly dependent on these stocks, and are furthermore limited in capacity to reduce catch rates of these species, without causing significant deleterious socioeconomic impacts on both fishing communities and the wider populations.

In conclusion Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago assert that ICCAT Rec. 19-05 does not consider the *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13) nor the provisions in Article 24 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement which recognize the special requirements of developing States and in particular, small island developing States. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago therefore strongly urge the Commission to re-evaluate the provisions of this Recommendation relating to allotted landing limits, the imposition of the 125% penalty on overages, and payback of excess landings especially in the context of Caribbean CPCs.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Costa Rica

The Republic of Costa Rica would like to express to you the highest consideration and respect, and would like to refer to the situation of the national commercial multi-species fishery that catches North Atlantic swordfish (SWO-N), which my country has developed for decades, in its Exclusive Economic Zone, with small-scale fleets (<20 m in length). It is important to mention the correlation between this fishery and the vital needs for the socio-economic development of our depressed Caribbean community of Costa Rica.

The fishery for this species has been recorded since before Costa Rica began to participate in ICCAT in 2016; in fact, our records of SWO-N landings date back to 1999¹, this species being of great importance for national food security.

The Costa Rica Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA), as the competent national authority, collects fishery statistics, which are submitted to ICCAT each year, in compliance with its data reporting requirements, which include fishery statistics that contribute to SWO-N stock assessments. These data show that the number of national vessels engaged in this fishery has declined in recent years; however, management measures remain in place such as:

- Licences register closed (no new licences issued),
- Mandatory satellite monitoring with VMS,
- Inspections of 100% of landings of surface longliners catching this species,
- Implementation of Fishing Operation Record Books, which are completed by captains,

¹ Lara Quesada, N., Pacheco Chaves, B. y Carvajal, J. M. 2022. Revisión de las estadísticas históricas de desembarque de pez espada (*Xiphias gladius*) por parte de la flota de mediana escala en el Caribe costarricense, Colección de Documentos Científicos de ICCAT, 79(2), 180-185. https://www.iccat.int/es/pubs_CVSP.html.

- Restrictions on fishing gear and catch of species,
- Fishery biological sampling on landing,
- Time or geographical closures,
- Development of industrial fisheries for SWO-N is not authorised,
- Among other management measures

Moreover, my Delegation has expressed its interest to the SCRS in participating in the SWO-N biology programme, contributing national experience and data from species associated with our waters, in particular, the Caribbean Sea which has been identified as an information gap area.

In accordance with Recommendation 23-04, conservation and management measures will be established for SWO-N at the 2024 meeting, and for this, the Commission will consider the development/management plans of developing coastal CPCs and the fishery/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments to existing catch limits and other conservation measures can be made, as appropriate.

In this regard, my country has detailed in its fishing plan² its limited fishing effort; in fact, the limited fishing possibilities imposed by ICCAT irreparably harm our communities, generating consequences contrary to the human rights of our society.

For this reason, and considering that:

- a. Recent stock assessments of SWO-N have determined that it is in good condition, as it is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing,
- b. The average annual nominal catch for the period 2018 to 2022 (5 years) for this stock was 9,980.18 t, while its total allowable catch (TAC) was set at 13,200 t, therefore leaving, on average, 3,219.82 t of the TAC per year uncaught and,
- c. The needs of my country, based on its historical participation in the fishery, as well as the provisions of Article 61, paragraph 2; Article 62, in particular paragraphs 1, 2, 4; Article 119, paragraph 1.a and 3, and related provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as Article II of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and ICCAT Resolution 15-13.

Costa Rica requests to be allocated the non-discriminatory catch limit of 302.15 t, which will be very useful to meet its current needs and develop its fishery in the Atlantic in its coastal communities with a small-scale fleet.

These considerations may be expanded upon at the request of the Commission. Costa Rica appreciates the positive response to our request and renews its unwavering spirit of cooperation within the framework of ICCAT for the sustainable utilization and long-term conservation of the resources under the administration of this organization.

² Development or fishing / management plan for northern swordfish (attached in original language only due to late submission).

Plan de desarrollo o pesca/ordenación para el pez espada del norte

CP41-NSWOPlan	2023 Costa Rica Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura Bernald Pacheco Chaves (506)2630-0600 incopescaICCAT@incopesca.go.cr
Año:	
Pabellón que informa:	
Agencia que informa:	
Persona responsable:	
Tel.:	
Fax:	
Email:	

Actualmente tiene una pesquería de pez espada del Atlántico Norte

☒

Cuota (t)

Actualmente no tiene una pesquería de pez espada del Atlántico norte, pero tiene planes para desarrollarla.

	Capacidad actual (año de comunicación en curso)						
	Palangre	Cerco	Cebo vivo	Arpón	Red enmalle	Arrastre	Otro (especificar)
Número de buques	12						
Capacidad total de captura (t)	302,15						
	Capacidad futura planeada (próximo año)						
	Palangre	Cerco	Cebo vivo	Arpón	Red enmalle	Arrastre	Otro (especificar)
Número de buques	12						
Capacidad total de captura (t)	302,15						

Medidas de ordenación internas actualmente en vigor

Especies: se permite la captura de grandes pelágicos y demersales.

Navegación: se permite realizar actividades de pesca dentro de las tres millas náuticas de la costa para embarcaciones comerciales de pequeña escala, hasta las 40 para mediana escala y más de 40 para avanzada.

No se autoriza la pesca en áreas de parques y áreas vedadas, se debe respetar los planes de ordenamiento de las áreas marinas de pesca responsable.

Planes para desarrollar la pesquería y medidas de ordenación internas contempladas

Recopilación de datos de captura en los viajes de pesca

Recopilación del esfuerzo pesquero

Programa de monitoreo en el puerto para verificación de libros de operación de pesca

Funcionarios de INCOPESCA inspeccionan el 100% de descargas de la flota comercial de mediana escala y avanzada y registro de la información en el Formulario de Inspección de Desembarque

Recursos Hidrobiológicos (FID)

Sistema de seguimiento satelital de las embarcaciones (VMS)

Monitoreo de la actividad pesquera: vigilancia aérea, inspecciones en el mar y en el puerto (se hace inspecciones en sitios de procesamiento y compra del producto pesquero)

Talla mínima de captura para pez espada del Atlántico norte: peso en vivo de 25 kg o como alternativa 125 cm de longitud de la mandíbula inferior a la horquilla. Margen de tolerancia a los buques que hayan capturado ejemplares pequeños de forma incidental, con la condición de que estas capturas incidentales no superen el 15% del número de peces espada por desembarque de la captura total de pez espada de dichos buques.

Registro de información biológica pesquera en desembarques

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8

**Request for North Atlantic swordfish
Liberia position on PA4_809/2024 and PA4_810/2024**

Liberia welcomes the proposal from the USA and co-sponsor by the EU and the proposal from the Canada on the conservation and management measures for North Atlantic Swordfish. Liberia request for 15 tons quota for this species. Over the years we have reported catches, and they are considered as overharvest. This species is caught by the artisanal fisheries of Liberia and is an important protein source with economic importance. In 2016, a total catch of 110.75 tons which we think was based on missed identification. The average catch for the last three years is 1.51 tons with a total accumulative overharvest of 115.28 tons. However, with assistance from ICCAT-JCAP through the Commission we have improved our data collection program for ICCAT species and other non-species. It is worth noting that Liberia has an artisanal data collection program using 32 fisheries enumerators assigned at 24 landing sites along the 9 coastal counties of Liberia collecting catch and effort data including size data.

As a small harvesting country, mainly as a bycatch, we solicit the support of other CPCs for our request for the quota of 15 tons.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8

**Whale Sharks and Mobulid Rays caught in association with ICCAT fisheries –
Entry into force of ICCAT Recommendations 23-12 and 23-14
(Submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom)**

At the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2023, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 23-12)* on whale sharks, and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays (family mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 23-14)* on mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT, based on proposals submitted by the EU and UK, respectively.

The entry into force of these Recommendations in 2025 is conditional on the Commission reaching consensus on its interpretation of advice from the SCRS, which was asked to review existing data and confirm whether whale sharks and mobulid rays are taxa of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern, and if so, advise on the appropriateness of applying precautionary measures in ICCAT fisheries, such as retention bans.

The SCRS issued the following advice in September 2024, based on its review of scientific evidence presented at the meetings of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch and the Sharks Species Group in 2024:

- *Whale sharks: (page 292, 19.23): “The Committee recommends that the Commission give full effect to Rec. 23-12. Given the dearth of data on whale shark interactions in ICCAT fisheries, the Committee considers that it is particularly important to comply with the reporting provisions in paragraph 5 of Rec. 23-12.”*
- *Mobulids (page 293, 19.24): “The Committee recommends that the Commission give full effect to Rec. 23-14. Given the dearth of data on mobulids interactions in ICCAT fisheries, the Committee considers that it is particularly important to comply with the reporting provisions in paragraph 3 of Rec. 23-14, paying particular attention to reporting information at a species level, if possible.”*

Given the clarity of this advice from the SCRS, the UK and EU consider that these two Recommendations should fully enter into force no later than 1 January 2025 for whale sharks (in accordance with Para 11 of Rec. 23-12) and 1 July 2025 for mobulid rays (in accordance with para 9 of Rec. 23-14) and urge the Commission to confirm its consensus in this regard.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable y la Seguridad Alimentaria (ALPESCAS) (Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security)

The Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable y la Seguridad Alimentaria (ALPESCAS) (Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security), composed of Latin American Fishing Industry Associations, reiterates its commitment to the conservation and responsible use of marine resources. On this basis, we promote specific actions to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and food security in the region.

In this framework, it is noted with concern that the catch of blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in longline fisheries has historically been underestimated, being treated as bycatch or incidental catch. However, as they coexist in the same environment as target species such as tuna or swordfish, its catch should not be ignored. This approach has led to inadequate fisheries management, which threatens both the blue shark stock and the sustainability of the other species.

The fact that some countries continue to classify the blue shark as a non-target catch ignores its ecological and economic importance. Moreover, with the controversial listing of the species in CITES Appendix II, which did not take into account the opinion of the FAO Expert Panel, more stringent management is called for and its current treatment in many countries is in contrast to international conservation standards. This dissonance not only compromises the health of blue shark stocks and stocks of other species, but also is a danger to the integrity of marine ecosystems and diverges from this Commission's principles of transparency.

By highlighting the importance of shark fisheries, in particular the blue shark fishery, ALPESCAS aims to contribute to an urgent need for management and to ensure more sustainable fisheries that benefit present and future generations, and therefore recommends to ICCAT:

Adoption of an agreement that recognises blue shark as a target species and that aligns its management with conservation and sustainable use strategies which seek to:

- a) Stimulate the production of the best scientific data to encourage research and better management of these fisheries.
- b) Support regulatory consistency that strengthens regional and national policies.
- c) To raise awareness among users and society about the natural abundance, importance and significance of this species as a global fishery resource.

ALPESCAS calls on this Commission to assume its historical role as a RFMO on the management of Atlantic transnational fishery resources, to seek to influence the balance of measures suggested in other international fora for the management and conservation of ocean resources and the Blue Economy.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (German Foundation for Marine Conservation)

The writing on the wall for sharks as highlighted in our Statement to the Plenary should cause ICCAT to step up shark conservation and management - now

Although ICCAT has been a pioneer among tuna RFMOs in adopting measures for several shark species over the years, these measures have so far failed to reduce shark mortality to sustainable levels. Beyond the three main ICCAT sharks (blue shark, shortfin mako, and porbeagle) measures are limited to retention bans for a few threatened shark species, although ICCAT fisheries interact with many more shark species.

In ICCAT fisheries sharks are both (secondary) target species and bycatch!

- Commercially fished pelagic sharks, such as blue shark and shortfin mako, have been overexploited as MSE tested Management Procedures have not been developed for any shark species yet, although widely recognized as a requirement for sustainable fisheries management.
 - This has resulted in shortfin mako being critically overfished in the North and most probably on a similar trajectory in the South, while overfishing continues in both parts of the Atlantic. Total mortality remains highly uncertain as non-compliance with discard reporting continues, and major catch nations fail to improve live release ratios.
 - For blue sharks this has resulted in the Northern stock being as much overfished as not and overfishing continuing in the South. However, adopted retention allowances still exceed scientific advice.
- Existing shark bycatch mitigation measures fail to avoid, minimize, or compensate the incidental catch of threatened pelagic elasmobranchs and only call for additional research and non-binding best handling release practices. Effective mortality reduction should require:
 - avoiding their catch in the first instance via time and/or spatial closures or gear changes and
 - significantly reducing on board and post release mortality by gear modifications and technical measures.

Therefore, the Commission should:

For blue sharks

1. Include both stocks into the MSE workplan starting MSE immediately after the feasibility study the SCRS has been tasked to perform in 2025.
2. Review and readjust the adopted TACs for both stocks to levels that provide at least a 60% probability for the stocks to return/remain in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot throughout the next ten years, taking also climate change impacts into account.
3. Require mandatory reporting of discards as a prerequisite for any future retention and strengthen discard reporting by all CPCs.

For shortfin mako - North Atlantic stock

1. Adopt intermediate measures to reduce shortfin mako mortality in 2025 such as, but not limited to a ban of wire traces (wire leaders) in longline fisheries and shark lines in all fisheries.
2. Host an intersessional Panel 4 meeting early in 2025 as suggested by the United Kingdom to discuss and agree on additional long-term measures for the reduction of shortfin mortality to not more than 250 tonnes.
3. Adopt in 2025 a comprehensive package of measures, including a schedule for implementation and monitoring of their effectiveness.

For shortfin mako - South Atlantic stock

1. Include the southern stock into the discussions for measures to reduce shortfin mako mortality where appropriate, especially regarding gear modifications. Banning the use of shark lines and wire traces also benefits this stock and improves enforcement as vessels often fish in both parts of the Atlantic.
2. Strengthen compliance with reporting requirements of Rec. 22-11, monthly for retentions and annually for discards and exclude CPCs from future retention if uncompliant.

3. Enforce that repayment schedules are fully enforced in case of exceeded quota, prohibiting any retention of shortfin mako for 2025 and reducing its retention allowance for 2026 until all excess retentions have been repaid.
4. Ensure all CPCs fully comply with Rec. 22-11 Para 8 requiring “that from 1 January 2025, any retention permissible shall be allowed only when the fish is dead on haulback, and the vessel has an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system (EMS) on board to verify the condition of the sharks.”

For retention bans and exemptions

1. Harmonize existing exemptions from retention bans for local consumption by developing coastal States by ensuring that those are strengthened and not weakened for all species, condition to fulfillment of Task 1 and Task 2 reporting requirements and restricted to subsistence fisheries with effective measures in place to prevent any part of these sharks from entering the international trade.
2. Extend the retention ban for bigeye thresher sharks to all species of the family *Alopiidae*.
3. Review the ICCAT list of sharks fisheries that interact with and identify which other threatened shark species might be in need of a retention ban along the same requirements tasking the SCRS to propose such candidate species to the Commission for adoption in 2025.

For whale sharks and mobulid rays

Ensure the retention bans come into effect as planned in 2025.

For Fins Naturally Attached (FNA)

Adopt a Fins Naturally Attached policy without exceptions, prohibiting the removal of fins at sea and requiring all sharks to be landed with all fins naturally attached to the carcass of the animal if sharks can be retained.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)

The Pew Charitable Trusts acknowledges the extensive work undertaken by Panel 4 and the SCRS during the intersessional period and appreciates this opportunity to provide input on the following items:

North Atlantic swordfish

This year presents an important opportunity for ICCAT to finally adopt a management procedure (MP) for North Atlantic swordfish. The SCRS and Panel 4 members have worked closely together to complete the management strategy evaluation (MSE) and have narrowed the options to five viable candidate MPs (CMPs). Now, Panel 4 should finish the job and adopt a final MP at this meeting, as its highest priority.

While most of the remaining CMPs are good, Panel 4 should choose one that maintains the safety objective at no more than a 10% probability of breaching the limit reference point. After years of work, Panel 4 can and should adopt a final MP here.

Whale sharks and mobulid rays

At the 2023 Commission meeting, members adopted conservation measures on whale sharks (Rec. 23-12) and mobulid rays (Rec. 23-14). Both measures were contingent on SCRS advice, which is now available and concludes that the Commission should give full effect to both measures. Given this advice from the SCRS, we urge Panel 4 to ensure that these two Recommendations now fully enter into force.

Blue shark MSE

Pew applauds Panel 4 for the blue shark measures adopted in 2023, particularly the text on development of MSEs for the North and South Atlantic populations. In partial response to the Commission's request for a feasibility study on that topic, at this year's SCRS meetings, a paper was presented that confirmed the feasibility of a blue shark MSE. Panel 4 should direct this work to begin in earnest in 2025 by including both stocks in the updates to the MSE roadmap this year.

Blue marlin

Pew urges Panel 4 members to maintain the current 1,670 t limit for blue marlin and update it to ensure it covers both landings and dead discards. This would not only be consistent with ICCAT practice, but it is necessary to ensure that the mortality does not breach sustainable levels as provided by the SCRS in its report. Blue marlin has been designated overfished for over 30 years, and Panel 4 should not approve increased landings until there is relative certainty that the combination of landings and dead discards does not threaten the recovery.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 8**Statement to Panel 4 by Sciaena*****Adoption of an MSE for North Atlantic swordfish***

After a much frustrating postponement of the decision in the 2023 annual meeting, Sciaena calls on all CPCs for the adoption of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the North Atlantic Swordfish (SWO) in this year's meeting, key to ensure the sustainability of the pelagic longline fisheries in the region and to fulfil the SCRS work plan on MSEs. In this regard, Sciaena fully supports proposal PA4_809 and calls for its adoption.

Implement and develop strong measures for the conservation of sharks

Sciaena believes it is crucial that the Commission gives a green light to the development of a blue shark MSE in 2025, acknowledging the work that has already begun at SCRS.

After strong decisions in the previous years, we urge CPCs to urgently adopt and implement measures to reduce mako mortality, as the results presented by SCRS indicate that mortality hasn't decreased. Sciaena is highly concerned with the continuous inability of CPCs to provide required information and put forward effective measures to reduce Shortfin mako mortality. While other measures aren't proposed, Sciaena calls on the commission to consider banning the use of wire leaders and increasing observer and EM coverage of the concerned fleets in the Atlantic. If it isn't possible to progress in this annual meeting, we support discussion paper PA4_811 and the suggestion to host a PA4 intersessional in 2025 to identify appropriate measures to reduce mortality.

We also request that the Commission give full effect to Rec. 23-12 and Rec. 23-14 on the conservation of whale sharks and mobulidae, following SCRS's recommendation. We therefore support proposal PA4_804 and call for its adoption.

Sciaena also calls for the adoption of proposal PA4_806 on fins naturally attached and calls for its adoption with no further delay.

Finally, Sciaena supports proposal PA4_805 for a consolidated shark measure and understands the need to streamline procedures and access to information, but warns against any effort of weakening existing measures, as it would be contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce bycatch of sensitive species.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8**Statement to Panel 4 by The Ocean Foundation**

The Ocean Foundation, in concert with other observer organizations, appreciates this opportunity to contribute to Panel 4 deliberations and urge the following actions.

Strengthen the shark finning ban

ICCAT's finning ban relies on a complicated fin-to-carass ratio that is hard to enforce and exacerbates inadequacies in catch information. Requiring that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached, without exceptions (as proposed by more than 20 CPCs in PA4_806) can:

- ease enforcement;
- eliminate wiggle-room to fin sharks and high-grade their parts; and
- facilitate collection of species-specific catch data.

Enhance implementation

We appreciate the interest in streamlining processes associated with ICCAT's shark measures but urge Parties to focus on changes needed to improve compliance, particularly the establishment of a procedure for the SCRS and Compliance Committee to evaluate Parties' requests for exemptions to shark data requirements and/or fishing restrictions. Such a process is essential to guiding national implementation of many critical measures and should be prioritized over the shark measure consolidation proposed in PA4_805. Should consolidation proceed, we strongly oppose any relaxation of existing conservation measures and support eliminating problematic exceptions that allow select Parties to land threatened bigeye thresher, hammerhead, and silky sharks.

Close protection gaps for mobula rays and whale sharks

ICCAT is the only tuna RFMO without safeguards in effect for whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and rays of the family mobulidae (manta and devil rays). Retention bans and release protocols are vital to minimizing bycatch mortality and are in line with 2009 and 2023 SCRS advice (for precautionary measures to protect low-data elasmobranch species with high vulnerability and conservation concern). Such action also can bolster national protections, amplify guidance for maximizing survival, and help to fulfill obligations under environmental treaties, (such as the Convention on Migratory Species and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean). We urge adoption of PA4_804 so that pending 2023 Recommendations for these endangered species can enter into force.

Recover shortfin mako sharks

SCRS calculations reveal that fishing mortality of North Atlantic shortfin makos (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) remains excessive. To reverse dangerous declines, we urge Parties to improve compliance with mandates to minimize incidental mortality, including through a focused intersessional in 2025 (in line with proposal PA4_811).

Ensure blue shark sustainability

We fear that several ICCAT Parties appear to be on track to exceed their catch allocations for South Atlantic blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*). We urge immediate action to ensure compliance with these essential limits. We also encourage the SCRS to develop harvest control rules for both blue shark populations.

Improve swordfish management

We urge ICCAT to adopt a North Atlantic swordfish management procedure for setting the TAC in 2025 and onward.

Report of the Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Derek Campbell, Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) opened the meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

As no CPC offered a nomination for Rapporteur, the COC Chair nominated himself. As no objection was raised, he was deemed appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair proposed organizational changes to the draft agenda, which were accepted by the Committee. The adopted agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

4. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and next steps

The Chair introduced and gave the floor to Dr Bryan Keller, the Chair of the WG-ORT.

The [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#), which was held virtually from 7 to 8 February 2024, was endorsed by the Committee. An update on the current status of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) is contained in the “2024 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)” and is included as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

The WG-ORT Chair began by providing an overview of the work accomplished by the Working Group in 2024. The “2024 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)” (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**) was used as a foundation for the presentation, summarizing the two modules under heavy development: vessel manager module and form manager module. Within the vessel manager module, the development team has included a completion mode to be accomplished via UN/FLUX; in this regard, the European Union (EU) was thanked for its voluntary contributions which made this accomplishment feasible. The WG-ORT Chair shared that these modules will be ready to enter into production in 2025, with anticipated release early in the year, scheduled for January 2025, and a requirement to use the modules for data submission obligations approximately three months later in the year. The final dates will be announced at the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) (online, 11 and 12 February 2025), further to Circular #11923/2024 of 27 November 2024, and disseminated via circular. The WG-ORT Chair reminded the Compliance Committee of the three training opportunities on these modules that took place throughout 2024 and that the Secretariat remains available for any individual training, as was made available during the annual meeting itself. Further, the locations of videos for previously recorded training sessions were made available, providing CPCs with a suite of options to make them more familiar with the modules. Two additional future training sessions are also being considered. After describing the current modules under development, the WG-ORT Chair provided an overview of the Working Group’s workplan (Table 6 of the [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#)). Complete details on modification to the workplan from 2023 are available in the “2024 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)” (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**). Finally, the WG-ORT Chair described intersessional work with the Secretariat to advance the intersessional tasks enumerated by the Working Group at its 2024 Meeting of the WG-ORT. Of the 12 intersessional tasks (see the 2024 Status Report (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**)), all were completed with the exception of objective #9, which will be addressed at the 2025 Meeting of the WG-ORT.

The Compliance Committee thanked the WG-ORT Chair for leading the work of the Group. Of particular interest, multiple CPCs noted intersessional task #11, which charged the WG-ORT Chair with forming an ad hoc working group to address redundancy. The “Interim Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)” was produced by the ad hoc group, with the goal of addressing redundancy in shark reporting requirements. Japan supported eliminating redundancies in the Shark Check Sheets, as well as redundancy between reporting both via the Shark Check Sheet and the Annual Report. Tunisia also suggested that the IOMS data fields pre-populate each year so that CPCs do not need to complete data prompts that are not applicable to their fisheries. The COC Chair suggested that the integration of shark requirements into IOMS could automatically eliminate form fields where a CPC has been exempted.

The WG-ORT Chair then introduced the “Information paper: Translation of IOMS data and documents”. This paper was developed following the 2024 Meeting of the WG-ORT, where the Group discussed the importance of the availability of documents managed by the IOMS in the three official languages of ICCAT, such as the Annual Reports. This matter was raised by the COC Chair at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2024, and he recommended that STACFAD and the WG-ORT explore with the ICCAT Secretariat the feasibility of progressively translating sections of the Annual Report that appear in the IOMS. The Secretariat has confirmed that the current IOMS budget does not account for the externalization of these translation tasks and that it does not have resources to carry out this task internally. Therefore, “Information paper: Translation of IOMS data and documents” reflected a recommendation to the Secretariat to work throughout the 2025 intersessional period, in consultation with the IOMS development team and the Chairs of STACFAD, the Compliance Committee, and the WG-ORT, to determine the costs associated with the proposed translation. A report will then be presented to STACFAD at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission for consideration in the 2026-2027 biennial budget. In addition, the WG-ORT Chair will also present an update to the Compliance Committee at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2025.

The Compliance Committee Chair echoed the importance of this initiative to advance transparency and accessibility. Ultimately, the Compliance Committee supported the recommendation for the WG-ORT Chair and Secretariat to continue this work and report back the following year.

The WG-ORT Chair then presented his proposed “[Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System \(IOMS\)](#)” and described the modifications from the current [Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System \(IOMS\) \(Rec. 22-17\)](#). Of substance, the term “and scientific data” was added to cover IOMS modules that will be developed in the future that would not clearly be captured by the scope of documents required to be submitted via IOMS under the current [Rec. 22-17](#), which only refers to “compliance documents”. The EU raised a concern that “scientific information and compliance documents” may not be sufficiently broad to cover the scope of future potential modules, so for greater clarity, that CPC proposed an edit to require CPCs to submit “relevant information using the dedicated IOMS modules as they become available.” The Compliance Committee approved this edit in the Draft Recommendation, which was in turn adopted by the Commission.

The Compliance Committee Chair thanked the Working Group for its hard work and closed the agenda item.

5. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its work in compiling the “Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee” and its appendices, and explained that he would proceed with a measure by measure review. This agenda item provides an opportunity to discuss any systemic issues related to interpretation of these measures and their implementation, and to provide the clarifications requested by the Secretariat.

Tropical tunas

The Secretariat highlighted that duplicative information is collected through overlapping quarterly, monthly, and weekly catch reporting requirements. These overlapping requirements cause unnecessary work for the Secretariat and can be confusing to CPCs. It was generally agreed that Panel 1 should consider changes in the measure to reduce reporting redundancies. The Chair noted that, as in recent years, several CPCs' compliance tables for bigeye tuna include footnotes to reflect differing interpretations regarding proportional adjustments to bigeye tuna catch limits from 2020 onward under the previous tropical tuna recommendation and expressed his hope that these issues could be resolved in Panel 1.

Swordfish

The Secretariat's report noted a significant amount of retroactive vessel listing for Mediterranean swordfish. The Chair encouraged CPCs to consider addressing this process in Panel 4 through adjustments to the [Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish \(Rec. 16-05\)](#), if possible, and also urged CPCs to improve their implementation of this reporting requirement. The EU raised concerns with the bycatch limits established in measures for northern and southern swordfish, northern and southern albacore stocks, as CPCs are not reporting their bycatch consistently. The Secretariat explained that in some cases, CPCs have responded that maximum bycatch limits are irrelevant because they have no flag vessels fishing for the species in question. The Chair confirmed that this is an insufficient response, reflecting a lack of understanding of the purpose of this requirement. The Chair requested the Secretariat, if feasible, to raise this issue for relevant CPCs in the "Compliance Summary Tables", if it has not already been raised. The Chair also welcomed any input from CPCs on deficiencies in other CPCs' compliance with this requirement during the CPC-by-CPC review.

Temperate tunas

The Secretariat's report requested clarification on issues related to Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs). In most cases, the Secretariat received the necessary information just five days before the JFOs; this makes it difficult to enter information into ICCAT databases, synchronize with the eBCD System and notify ROP-BFT observers in time for their deployments. In addition, the current procedure does not allow for any JFOs to be entered without information on farming destination; some difficulties were encountered when changes were required, as once eBCDs are associated with a JFO the information cannot be updated unless all eBCDs are reissued. Further difficulties have been encountered as a result of last-minute quota transfers which can change both the individual quotas and the relative allocation shares of a given vessel in a specific JFO. The Chair noted the Secretariat's request for a review of the provisions of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#) related to JFOs to establish a clear protocol for handling such cases, which will be discussed in Panel 2.

Next, the Chair highlighted the importance of inspection reports from Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS), including possible infringements, and suggested that the Compliance Committee could devote more time to its consideration of whether CPCs' responses to infringements are adequate. If there are repeated infringements by a single vessel or a flag State, this should be considered as well.

The EU noted that JIS requires significant effort in terms of human and financial resources. Whenever there is a detection of an infringement that is immediately sent to the Flag CPC and ICCAT, however, often there is no follow up to reports or involved Parties may reach different conclusions. The EU suggested that it may be helpful to establish a specific process to ensure that all reported infringements are properly followed up and for the resolution of potential disputes and noted their intention to offer a proposal for discussion in the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

Billfish

The Chair invited comments on measure-specific, systemic issues, referencing the Secretariat's compilation of CPC responses from the “Billfish Implementation Check Sheets received in accordance with Rec. 18-05”. The Chair noted that some CPC responses reflect an ongoing misunderstanding of billfish requirements. For example, some explanations cite the lack of an industrial fleet or targeted fishery, but these circumstances do not exempt CPCs from implementing the relevant recommendations.

The United States noted that stock-wide catches of sailfish (in both eastern and western Atlantic) have exceeded the trigger in recent years, and in many cases CPCs have provided incomplete responses regarding their implementation of [Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of Atlantic sailfish \(Rec. 16-11\)](#). In light of this, the United States emphasized the importance of taking a closer look at CPCs’ implementation of the sailfish measure in 2025.

Moving on to the “Shark Implementation Check Sheets in accordance with Rec. 18-06”, the Chair called CPCs’ attention to the “Summary document of the Shark Check Sheets content” prepared by the Secretariat and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat and the Chair of the IOMS Working Group for their efforts to streamline these reporting requirements. Although reporting under the Shark Check Sheets is improving overall, there are some recurring and systemic issues. For example, some CPCs responses simply note that they have no directed fishing for sharks, which is an insufficient response, as the shark Recommendations are replete with requirements that apply whether or not there is a directed fishery or whether the shark is retained. In other cases, CPCs may claim to exercise an exemption provided to the prohibitions on various shark species, without describing how they fulfill the associated conditions. And some CPCs have claimed an exemption from submitting the Shark Check Sheet without following the process for such an exemption outlined in the measure, which includes a requirement to submit information to the SCRS and the SCRS to confirm that the CPC is not likely to catch shark species covered by the Check Sheets.

The Chair clarified that the exemption under discussion is an exemption from submitting the Check Sheet and not a global exemption from obligations related to implementation. Similarly, Guatemala emphasized that all CPCs must meet the shark measure requirements, regardless of whether they submit a Check Sheet. Guatemala also was of the view that the Committee does not have a role to play in determining what CPCs are exempt; the exemption should be automatic upon a confirmation from SCRS that the CPC is not likely to catch sharks covered by the Recommendations.

Canada suggested a focus on the Shark Check Sheets in the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee. Canada also recommended considering a more formal process for CPCs requesting exemption from submitting the Shark Check Sheets, which should articulate the roles of specific roles of the CPC, Panel 4, and the SCRS. The Chair was also of the view that it could be appropriate for this process to have a role for subsidiary bodies other than the Compliance Committee and SCRS. Guatemala did not consider the Compliance Committee to have a role in determining exemption status for CPCs, rather, exemption should be automatic upon the required confirmation from SCRS regarding likelihood of shark catch.

Norway recalled that they had presented their request and requested confirmation from SCRS in 2018, but still lacked a clear response, underlining the importance of establishing clear and well-defined exemptions for CPCs operating entirely outside the distribution area of certain shark species. This would help to minimize unnecessary reporting and management burdens.

The SCRS Chair confirmed that in 2019 the SCRS Shark Species Group did discuss the process for requesting exemptions and laid out criteria. Although this was described in the [Report for Biennial Period, 2018-19, Part II, Vol 2](#), there was not time to fully consider this during SCRS Plenary, so it was not formally endorsed at that time. The SCRS Chair expressed his intention to address this matter in 2025, noting that it would be helpful for the Commission to offer some guidance on what probability is considered a tolerable level of interaction.

The United Kingdom observed that under the wording of Recommendations, it is clear that CPCs should not be able to self-exempt themselves from requirements and expressed their support for developing a clear process to validate these exemptions. The EU suggested that this issue could be addressed in their shark proposal.

The Chair recognized broad support for establishing a clear process, and committed to developing a recommendation for endorsement by the Commission to request the SCRS to develop a process.

Regarding North Atlantic shortfin mako, the United States noted that although CPCs have taken action to prohibit retention, few have reported taking meaningful actions to minimize the mortality of incidentally caught shortfin mako, as required by the [Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries \(Rec. 21-09\)](#). The United States expressed concern about the seriously depleted condition of the stock and reminded all CPCs that the prohibition on retention must be coupled with other actions to reduce mortality. They also noted that many CPCs that did not comply with the requirement to report live and dead discard data for shortfin mako, and requested a review of compliance with all [Rec. 21-09](#) in 2025.

Seabirds

The Chair noted that the Secretariat has made a recommendation (as it has for many years) reiterating the suggestion that the [Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries \(Rec. 07-07\)](#) and the [Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries \(Rec. 11-09\)](#) could be combined to reduce redundancy. The Chair referred this matter to Panel 4 to consider in its future work.

Monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures

Regarding the Committee's requests for clarity on how the provisions of the [Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations \(Rec. 11-15\)](#) are implemented, the Chair has asked the Secretariat to send out a circular to the Commission with a list of CPCs that are subject to prohibitions on catch as of 1 January, to ensure that relevant CPCs and market CPCs are notified. Likewise, when a CPC's prohibition is lifted, the Commission should also be notified through a circular.

The Chair urged CPCs to take note of the Secretariat's request regarding the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing \(Rec. 23-17\)](#), and its predecessor, [Recommendation by ICCAT on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing \(Rec. 18-09\)](#). The Secretariat has noted that many reports on infringements detected on inspection, required under the Recommendation, are submitted late, and in many cases copies of the reports have not been duly provided to the Flag States as required. In other cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements. In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports that contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the [ICCAT website](#), the Secretariat requests CPCs to submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the Flag State.

Regarding the [Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements \(Rec. 14-07\)](#), para 5 requires that both the flag and coastal CPC report annually on activities undertaken pursuant to an access agreement - including catches taken - and clarifies that catches are to be counted against the flag CPC's quota. In 2020, the Secretariat created a revised reporting form (CP39-AccAgr) for submitting information on access agreements in order to avoid confusion regarding Task 1 data submissions. This form is designed to be used both for the agreement itself and for the catches made under such agreement. However, as noted in the "Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee", the section on catch reporting is not being used by CPCs.

In response to a question, Belize clarified that the case of a Belize-flagged vessel fishing in Angola did not involve an access agreement, but rather, vessel chartering, and that Belize had submitted the Task 1 data as required.

The EU noted that under [Rec. 14-07](#) CPCs have an obligation to provide certain information about access agreements; however, even where there is not a legal obligation, there should still be an effort to provide relevant information.

The United States expressed concern that catch data submitted to ICCAT may be incomplete or inaccurate due to confusion concerning reporting responsibilities for catches taken under an access agreement or other arrangement. As a result, some catches may be either unreported or double-counted. Further, the risk of inaccurate data being reported to ICCAT due to operational and MCS capacity constraints may be magnified where the access arrangement is between a coastal State and private company. Para 6 of [Rec. 14-07](#) makes catch reporting in these cases the sole responsibility of the coastal CPC.

Regarding [Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment \(Rec. 21-15\)](#), the Secretariat explained that Supply Declarations have been received in Word format, which is not consistent with the ICCAT [CP-54-SupplyDec](#) Form required for this purpose. Coordinates are not indicated and very often the type of product to be transhipped is not indicated. This makes it very difficult for the Secretariat to determine which documents are being sent in accordance with the requirement to submit supply declarations, particularly as a few CPCs persist in submitting information not required by the Recommendation. This causes an enormous additional burden on the Secretariat (registration and review of non-relevant submissions) and seriously hinders the correct processing of information. In light of this, the Chair requested that CPCs submit only the documentation required by the Recommendation and use ICCAT approved formats and clear images so as to honor the Secretariat's time and not undermine the fulfillment of the objective of this measure.

Regarding [ICCAT Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye and Swordfish](#), the Secretariat requested CPCs limit themselves to submit only the documents that are required, and to use the approved formats. The Secretariat clarified that it was mainly referring to when CPCs, authorities, or individuals send in information from the authority or government office with authority to validate the statistical documents, and often these authorities do not use the right form (the CPC uses PDF or scanned document instead). This results in more work for the Secretariat to manually transfer the information to their database and website. In the case of submitted validation seals and signatures, images should be as clear as possible.

Additionally, CPCs should make every effort to ensure that the ICCAT database contains only information on active Entities, Organizations, and Validating Officers, while inactive ones should be clearly identified when submitting a new CP15-SDP form in the appropriate format, as stated above.

5bis. Issues identified by the Compliance Committee for priority review

The Chair recalled a letter he sent to CPCs seeking input on areas for a deeper review at this meeting, to build on areas suggested at the 28th Special Meeting of the Commission of 2023 for deeper review in 2024. In the past, the COC has developed a strategic plan for issues of priority or consideration, which fell off the Compliance Committee agenda for a few years. Since issues for prioritized review at this meeting were identified relatively late in proximity to the meeting date, CPCs likely have not had sufficient time to review relevant documents or to update their own reporting on these matters. Therefore, the Chair advised that we can have a first pass of these issues at this meeting, based on the documentation provided by the Secretariat, and do a deeper dive in 2025. The Chair thanked CPCs who responded to his letter to help inform the list here and the development of the strategic plan.

Overharvest

One matter identified by a number of CPCs is overharvest. This is a core compliance issue and normally is flagged in the Compliance Summary Tables. The Chair and several CPCs thanked the Secretariat for preparing a new summary table on overharvests "Catch overages and negative balances in 2023 by CPC and stock", which the Chair had requested, in part so it was clear which CPCs had overharvest in the preceding calendar year as well as recurring overharvest of a particular species for the past 2-3 years. This will enable the Compliance Committee to give greater attention to overharvest generally, and will facilitate more meaningful implementation of the [Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions \(Ref. 22-18\)](#) by allowing the Compliance Committee to assess the gravity of the overharvest in determining appropriate responsive actions.

The EU expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's presentation of overharvest information and concurred that overharvest is a matter that the Compliance Committee should address. The United States emphasized the importance of considering the number of years of overharvest and any aggravating or mitigating circumstances. To ensure a rigorous process, sufficient time should be allocated to assess these factors. Japan noted that there are several types of overharvest (e.g. by CPCs with allocation, and CPCs without

allocation), and these cases should be considered separately. For overharvest of an allocation, a CPC should present a payback plan in accordance with the relevant recommendation. For CPCs harvesting without an allocation, one approach, in addition to Compliance Committee consideration, could be to refer the matter to the relevant Panels. In 2025, each CPC with overharvest would be requested to explain the circumstance of its overharvest, which will help the Compliance Committee identify how to best address the issue for each CPC.

Scientific observers

Continuing the discussion of systematic issues through the measure-by-measure review, the Chair opened the floor for interventions related to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer program* (Rec. 16-14). While some CPCs have made progress in implementing this measure, many fisheries are still lacking a scientific observer program; there are also ongoing issues related to reporting. Moreover, as highlighted in most Compliance Committee meetings over the past decade, a number of CPCs purport to exercise an exemption to the minimum percentage of observer coverage required, yet have not followed the procedure for obtaining such an exemption set forth in Rec. 16-14. Additionally, many CPCs have not submitted the required forms to describe their observer programs and to report the information gathered under these programs.

To facilitate discussion of Rec. 16-14, the Chair introduced the meeting document “Information on implementation of Scientific Observer Programs as reported by CPCs”, and thanked the Secretariat for its production. This document compiles and summarizes information submitted by CPCs relevant to the implementation of Rec. 16-14. The EU suggested that the document could be improved with the addition of information for each CPC on vessels subject to observer provisions which are active and how many are covered by observers; this would help to determine the impact of a lack of coverage. The Secretariat explained that this would require the creation of a new database, as Rec. 16-14 requires reporting on percentage coverage and the method for calculating that percentage, but does not require reporting on observer coverage in relation to active vessels. Japan suggested a comprehensive review of how CPCs are meeting current observer program requirements, and the Chair noted that this could be included in the 2025 strategic plan.

The United States asked that any deficiencies in meeting observer program requirements be included in the Compliance Summary Tables. A revised version of the document was produced.

Sea turtle bycatch

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its preparation of a document consolidating CPC responses in the Annual Report section on sea turtles in document “Responses from IOMS to BYC01 – Turtles”, in which CPCs report on their implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)* (Rec. 22-12). The Chair recalled that at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2023, a CPC recommended that the Compliance Committee have a closer look at implementation of Rec. 22-12. This includes the requirement under para 1 to implement one of three enumerated bycatch reduction methods in their longline fisheries, and the requirement under para 2 “to reduce and eliminate, to the extent practicable, interactions with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries where encounters with sea turtles have been documented and reported to the SCRS”, by implementing at least one of four enumerated mitigation measures. In turn, para 8 of Rec. 22-12 requires CPCs to report on which bycatch reduction methods it employs pursuant to para 1 and 2.

The Chair observed that CPCs’ responses are illuminating, in some cases concerning, and in other cases far from comprehensive. Some CPC responses reflect an incorrect interpretation of the requirements of Rec. 22-12. In other cases, CPCs indicate they report on their implementation in other parts of the Annual Report, which is permissible, but the meeting document that compiles all IOMS responses does provide a complete picture of implementation information reported by CPCs. Therefore, it would be helpful in 2025 if the Secretariat can consolidate all relevant information reported by CPCs (via IOMS or other parts of the Annual Report). Further, in order to improve information available to support the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee, the Chair committed to contacting CPCs intersessionally to highlight any issues in their reporting or interpretation reflected in its past reports so improvements can be made in reports to be considered by the Compliance Committee in 2025.

6. Consideration of capacity building as a tool to improve compliance, including identification of available capacity building opportunities and CPC needs and requests for capacity building

In introducing this item, the Chair explained it is relatively new to the standard Compliance Committee agenda. He emphasized the Compliance Committee's objective of expanding discussions of capacity building as a tool for improving compliance, as reflected in the Compliance Committee's recommendation in 2023 to add this as a standing agenda item to ensure a dedicated discussion takes place.

First, he introduced the document "Compliance-related capacity building initiatives offered by the CPCs", which contained summaries of capacity building opportunities and information about how to apply. This was prepared at the Compliance Committee's request at its 2023 Compliance Committee Meeting and reflects a wide range of opportunities that CPCs in search of capacity building or technical assistance are encouraged to consider. The Chair thanked the CPCs that submitted information to the "Compliance-related capacity building offers" table, and encouraged other CPCs to provide information about their programs in the future, noting that there were a number of CPCs that intervened in 2023 to describe their programs that had not submitted the programs for inclusion in this table. The Chair suggested that in addition to being updated annually as a meeting document, this could be published on the [ICCAT website](#) for greater visibility.

The Chair then brought attention to a Secretariat document "Information submitted by some CPCs in Section 2 - Part 2.2 of their Annual Report", which compiles CPC submissions to the Annual Report and describes the difficulties CPCs face in complying with ICCAT requirements. The Chair suggested that in the future, the Compliance Committee could enhance the process of matching needs with available resources, including those reflected in the document "Compliance-related capacity building initiatives offered by the CPCs".

The Chair then referred to the document "Capacity building missions in ICCAT developing countries". The second phase of the project Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Tuna-ABNJ2) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved ICCAT requests for funding for several capacity building projects. In addition to Port Inspection Training, the Secretariat received approval for four Compliance Missions, over a period of five years, to build the capacity of developing countries to comply with ICCAT reporting requirements. In 2023, ICCAT approved a capacity building mission to São Tomé e Príncipe. In 2024, four requests were received (from Angola, Egypt, Senegal, and Trinidad and Tobago).

The ICCAT Secretariat provided an overview of the combined Statistics and Compliance Mission conducted in July 2024 in São Tomé. It was the first of its kind to be funded under the ABNJ Phase II. The Secretariat provided training to 10 individuals. The training included an overview of how ICCAT works, its structure, organization, its statistical and compliance requirements, its standardized forms and how to fill them out, as well as training in use of ICCAT's IOMS. The Secretariat continues to work with this CPC to assist in fulfilment of ICCAT reporting requirements, including to ensure correct gear attributions in statistical forms.

Regarding applicants for future compliance missions, following discussion and recommendations by members of the Committee, the Compliance Committee recommended that the next recipients should be Senegal in 2025 and Angola in 2026, noting that both had highlighted reporting issues in their application and both have reporting issues flagged in their Compliance Summary Table, and that reporting is the main focus of the missions. The final mission, for 2027, can be approved by the Commission at a future meeting. Tunisia expressed its interest in a future mission and the Chair encouraged Tunisia to submit an application.

Lastly, the Chair noted that some applications had been received from CPCs that did not appear to have major reporting issues listed in the CPC's Compliance Summary Table and did not focus on reporting issues in the application, even though reporting is the focus of the capacity building missions. The Chair suggested that if desired, the Committee or Commission could explore the possibility of expanding the scope of topics that could be addressed by future trainings, such as capacity building for the implementation of ICCAT requirements. This matter was deferred for further discussion at a future meeting of the Compliance Committee.

The Chair encouraged São Tomé e Príncipe, last year's mission recipient, to share with the Compliance Committee its experiences and impressions of the training. São Tomé e Príncipe spoke positively of the training but lamented that most of their government participants in the training subsequently left the country.

Finally, the EU recommended that the Compliance Committee, in reviewing CPC compliance with ICCAT requirements, should expect recipients of capacity building missions to demonstrate improvement in compliance with ICCAT reporting requirements, and that upon being determined by the Compliance Committee to be a recipient of a future mission, the CPC should be reminded of this expectation. A revised version of the document was produced.

The Chair then invited Ms. Laura Eeles, from observer organization Pew Charitable Trusts, to give the presentation entitled "[A self-assessment tool to evaluate capacity to engage in RFMO compliance review processes](#)".

In introducing this initiative, Ms. Eeles observed that the compliance review processes of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) are essential to ensuring the achievement of RFMO objectives. Such processes can be labour intensive and demanding on members. Many RFMOs have initiatives to support members with capacity challenges. Pew is in the process of developing this self-assessment tool to aid members in this regard.

The capacity assessment tool could be utilized by personnel in member governments, including those involved in delegations to RFMOs. The information gathered could be treated by the member as primarily for internal use but could be shared by the member at its discretion. There are no requirements to divulge results.

This tool can help States identify the specific challenges that prevent their full and effective engagement in compliance review processes and prepare for taking action to address these challenges. The tool could also be beneficial for auditing and enhancing systems, tools, and processes for engaging in RFMO compliance assessment processes.

The tool will function as a desk-top review of RFMO reporting requirements and templates, compliance reports and performance reviews. Its development reflects contributions from RFMO compliance officers, government officials, survey specialists, and independent experts. It will consist of six main modules, with multiple-choice and open-ended questions, and a summary section. It will be completed through a fillable format and have automated scoring.

A coordinating agency of the member using the tool would determine which government agencies to consult. A point person within the coordinating agency collates all relevant information and compiles it into the assessment tool. An individual agency questionnaire is provided to facilitate consultation if more than one agency is involved. Once all individual agencies have provided answers, the point person would assess the responses and reflect the overall answers in the assessment tool. The main assessment tool ascertains the level of overall capacity. The separate individual agency questionnaire is only used to collect individual agency input.

The final summary section will provide a table highlighting the total average score of the capacity needs for each module (data collection, information management, reporting participation, follow-up). Scores can be used by the members to produce a priority list of areas that need attention. The tool can be used as often as needed to assess the impact of implemented changes or when new obligations are put in place can be shared internally, with RFMOs, or other institutions to help access capacity assistance, as the member decides.

Testing of the tool is currently underway by five governments of various sizes that participate in either the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) or the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to ensure both the content and design achieve the desired objective. Once testing is complete, the tool will be made available to all interested parties, including RFMO members and Secretariats. Availability is expected around April 2025.

The Chair thanked Ms. Eeles for the presentation and expressed optimism that this tool appears to be very beneficial for RFMOs and their members from a compliance perspective. He encouraged ICCAT participants to approach Pew to learn more and to consider utilizing the tool when it becomes available.

Guatemala also expressed its gratitude for the development of this tool, highlighting the utility of self-assessment tools, and that it looked forward to having more information and to working with Pew.

Lastly for this agenda item, the ICCAT Executive Secretary reminded CPCs of ICCAT Circular #08587/2024 regarding an initiative being developed under the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project. The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has developed a course for the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and is planning to adapt the content to suit the Atlantic Ocean and ICCAT fisheries. This course teaches the general skills and knowledge required by monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) officers at the entry level, including the technical and practical skills and knowledge expected of competent MCS officers. The course was designed for the WCPO fishery, but the goal is to replicate this for the ICCAT Convention area using existing materials that are generally applicable but adjusting the content to take into account the specificities of the ICCAT Convention area and fisheries. It is expected to be a short learning programme mainly online, but with some in-person modules, likely with funding available for students from Developing countries. The FFA has held initial discussions with the Fish Force Academy of Nelson Mandela University (FishFORCE) regarding hosting, but should CPCs know of any nationally recognised education institutions within your CPC that may be interested in collaborating on the dissemination of such a course, either as part of an existing course of studies or a stand-alone certification course, CPCs are encouraged to inform the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible with the name of the institution and the contact details of the person to be approached.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for bringing this initiative to ICCAT's attention, noting that it is in line with this agenda item's objective of using capacity building to improve compliance with ICCAT requirements.

7. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2023 Meeting

The "Letters on Compliance Issues" sent to CPCs following the 2023 Meeting of the Compliance Committee and the "Responses from CPCs to Letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee" and its annexes are available. The Chair reminded the Committee that in recent years, the Compliance Committee has identified the need to give greater priority to the review of the response letters and to identify cases where responses either lacked sufficient information or reflected insufficient corrective actions by the Compliance Committee. He thanked the Secretariat for summarizing the letters in a meeting document format that facilitated this task. Since the Compliance Committee had two extra days at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, it was able to address these letters separately under this agenda item. However, given the shorter meeting time this year, the Chair recommended that any issues with CPC response letters be raised during the CPC-by-CPC review later in the agenda, and a dedicated review be carried out under this agenda item next year during the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee. There were no objections to this approach.

The Chair also noted that some CPCs that had received letters requesting a follow-up action plan had enquired with the Secretariat about the preferred format and contents of the action plan. The Chair observed that ICCAT already has a template for responding to compliance letters that asks what action the CPC has taken or plans to take. Therefore, the question is, how does an action plan differ? The Chair suggested that an action plan is more detailed, not just a response to describing future actions. It could speak to timeline, different steps towards a goal, benchmarks, plans on reporting to the Compliance Committee. The Chair said he had asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft action plan response template for the Compliance Committee's consideration in 2025. To inform the Secretariat's work, the Chair welcomed input from CPCs on what the template should look like.

8. Review of Compliance Annex (Compliance tables by species)

The Chair introduced the latest version of the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024” by species. He explained that these tables provide a snapshot of how much a CPC has fished relative to their fishing possibilities and reflect the application of rules on carryforward and payback of under and overharvests, and changes in allocation under the species Recommendations. The Chair noted that footnotes remain for certain CPCs in the bigeye table, pending resolution of different interpretations of how total allowable catch (TAC) reductions required under earlier versions of the tropicals measure are applied across CPCs. The Chair encouraged CPCs to resolve this matter in Panel 1. The Chair thanked the Secretariat Compliance staff for its fruitful work with CPCs over the years to resolve nearly all outstanding issues in the Compliance tables, which have greatly improved. At the close of the Compliance Committee session, the Committee approved the revised tables and referred them to the Commission for adoption.

The final version of the “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024”, are contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

9. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under [Rec. 08-09](#)

The Chair explained that the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information* ([Rec. 08-09](#)) sets forth a process that allows parties and other entities to submit detailed information on potential noncompliance with ICCAT requirements. Information is submitted 180 days in advance of the annual meeting to allow for investigation and submission of follow-up information by the flag State. Submissions of potential non-compliance and responses can be found in the revised version of “Information received under Rec. 08-09 and responses”. The Chair thanked the EU in particular, as a CPC that had made effective use of this tool in recent years (this year, there were no submissions by other entities.) The EU suggested that rather than discussing these matters under this agenda item, they could be taken up in the CPC-by-CPC review later in the meeting.

The Chair suggested that where the [Rec. 08-09](#) submission reflects a basis to consider a CPC potentially non-compliant with ICCAT requirements, this could also be added to the “Compliance Summary Tables”.

The EU noted that of the 12 CPCs for which the EU raised compliance issues in its [Rec. 08-09](#) submission, six did not reply, which they considered unacceptable. The Chair suggested that in this case, a reference to issues of potential non-compliance should be retained in the Compliance Summary Tables in order to ensure appropriate follow-up by the CPC and continued Compliance Committee oversight.

10. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements

In introducing this agenda item, the Chair explained that while all COC information documents were relevant to the CPC-by-CPC review, the primary document to facilitate and reflect the results of this review is the compilation of Compliance Summary Tables. The Chair also clarified that, mere cross-referencing in these tables of a potential non-compliance (PNC) matter contained in the document on “Issues of potential non-compliance arising from ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes and Responses” (PNC identified by ICCAT regional observer programs (ROP) and flag CPC responses) is not to be taken as a suggestion by the Secretariat or the Chair that this needs a letter or follow up action. Rather, the Compliance Committee reviews observer-identified PNCs in this document to determine if the response from the flag CPC is insufficient, and thus warrants retaining the issue on the Compliance Summary Table for further action. A similar approach can be taken regarding matters raised in submissions under [Rec. 08-09](#), discussed under a previous agenda item, as well as PNCs identified through the Joint Scheme of International Inspection summarized in “Inspection reports received in 2024 under the Joint Scheme of International Inspection with possible infractions and responses received”. Lastly, issues that are retained in the Compliance Summary Tables and identified by the Compliance Committee for further action should not be understood as necessarily reflecting a Compliance Committee finding of non-compliance, but rather simply that the Compliance Committee has determined that there is a compliance-related issue that warrants continued attention by the Compliance Committee and flag CPC.

The Compliance Committee then proceeded to conduct a review of each CPC, guided primarily by the document “Compliance Summary Tables” and the document on “Responses from CPCs to Letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee”, if applicable. Upon the completion of the CPC-by-CPC review, the Chair worked with the Friends of the Chair group to develop a draft list of responsive actions to be presented to the Compliance Committee and Commission for their approval under agenda item 12 (below).

The final version of the “Compliance Summary Tables” is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

11. Review of information relating to Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs)

The Chair described the past practice of the Commission in engaging non-CPCs (NCPCs, a subset of NCPs) to facilitate discussions under this agenda item. Typically, the Commission or Compliance Committee Chair sends letters to non-CPCs for which there is information on recent participation in ICCAT fisheries (such as information from trade data from CPCs that indicate harvest of ICCAT species by the NCP). Such letters normally request information on catch of ICCAT species and relevant measures, and encourage the NCP to consider participating in ICCAT in some capacity (e.g. as an observer, Cooperating Non-Party, or in some cases a Contracting Party). ICCAT sent a dozen letters to NCPCs following the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2023. Compliance Committee-related correspondence with NCPCs can be found in the document “Correspondence with Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Non-CPCs)”.

The Chair recalled that at the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission and the 2023 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee, some participants expressed concern there may be NCPCs with fishing activities that the Commission has not taken note of. The ensuing discussion at the Compliance Committee was informed by a “A concept paper on how to deal with Non-CPCs” (COC_321_REV/2023) submitted to the Compliance Committee by Japan in 2023 that provided NCPCs’ ICCAT species catch data reported to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and suggested possible approaches to further address NPC fishing. For consideration at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2024, the Secretariat prepared a meeting document, “Consideration of Non-CPC Participation in ICCAT Fisheries”, which included an updated version of the NCPC catch table in Japan’s document as well as a list of other NCPCs that are ICCAT coastal States.

The Chair invited additional input at this meeting. Are there new methodologies the Compliance Committee should employ, or should the Compliance Committee continue with its past approach?

Japan noted that the catch by NCPCs reflected in “Consideration of Non Contracting Party Participation in ICCAT Fisheries” are not good optics for ICCAT. The Commission should continue to monitor catch by these NCPCs, and we should invite them to participate in ICCAT through appropriate means, including by sharing data. The Commission should establish criteria to judge whether a NCPC’s catch is a matter for ICCAT. If the catch is very small, based on the criteria, this does not need to be a focus of ICCAT. We should also consider if the catch is consumed by the domestic market or enters international trade. If products enter international trade, ICCAT should seriously consider how to address that fishing activity. This could be explored further, as needed, at the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee.

The United States agreed with Japan’s proposed approach to focus on NCPCs with more than *de minimus* catch or catch that enters international trade.

The Chair supported further discussion at the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee, which can be facilitated by information from a broader range of NCPCs as a result of the Compliance Committee recommending, in 2025, to send a letter to NCPCs that have a catch of 1% or more of ICCAT’s TAC for the species or for NCPCs whose ICCAT catch enters international trade. As needed, we can refine this methodology at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2025. The Compliance Committee supported this suggestion and it was endorsed by the Commission.

There was also some discussion of specific matters relating to Bolivia and Guyana, which both enjoy Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status in ICCAT.

Bolivia expressed concern that one of the meeting documents indicated that Bolivia was subject to ICCAT-recommended trade sanctions dating back to 1996, however, Bolivia had understood the sanctions were in place from 2002. The Chair asked the Secretariat to check historical documents and update the referenced table if any inconsistencies were identified.

The United States informed the Compliance Committee that it had posed questions to Guyana in writing through Compliance Committee procedures, as contained in “Questions and answers from CPCs on compliance matters”, however no response had been received. Therefore, the United States requested that these matters be reflected in the Compliance Summary Tables and in a letter to Guyana following the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2024.

12. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 7

a) Endorsement of the Compliance Annex

The Chair presented the revised “2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024”. He explained that the procedure is for the Compliance Committee to endorse the tables and then forward to the Commission for adoption. The Chair reminded CPCs that these tables are subject to change and can and should be updated by the CPC when new information becomes available on catch statistics. He also thanked the Chair of Panel 3 for his work with the Panel members to finalize the pro-rata distribution to interested CPCs of available quota for the South Atlantic albacore fishery. The Compliance Committee endorsed the revised Compliance Tables and referred them to the Commission for adoption.

b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures Recommendation (Rec. 06-13)

CPC-specific actions under [Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures \(Rec. 06-13\)](#) were taken under this agenda item’s subpara (d), below, and are reflected in meeting document “Compliance actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with Friends of the Chair Group”. As context for the actions recommended under [Rec. 06-13](#) under the later agenda item, the Chair noted that the methodology has been guided over the past two years by [Ref. 22-18](#), which is a schedule of actions the Commission has agreed to in advance to apply, as appropriate, for potential non-compliance issues and to provide for mitigating situations in order to ascertain the severity of the compliance issues. For certain CPCs that have been identified under [Rec. 06-13](#) for multiple consecutive years including this year, the Commission has agreed in adopting [Ref. 22-18](#) that Commission recommendation of trade restrictive measures is an appropriate responsive action. This year, a number of CPCs fall into the category of multiple consecutive identifications. However, since the imposition of trade restrictive measures is a significant punitive action and the Commission has not developed a practice or procedure for taking such a decision pursuant to [Ref. 22-18](#), and since the potential for this action was not highlighted at an early stage of the 2024 Compliance Committee Meeting to allow sufficient time for careful deliberation, the Chair explained that he would not be recommending imposition of trade restrictive measures this year. Instead, he would recommend that such CPCs receive a warning that this is a likely possibility in 2025 if their performance is not improved, and that the status of such CPCs would be raised at an early stage of the 2025 meeting.

c) Action under data recommendations (Rec. 05-09 and the Rec. 11-15)

The [Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations \(Rec. 05-09\)](#) was not specifically discussed, as compliance with reporting obligations has primarily been discussed, in recent years, in the context of the [Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations \(Rec. 11-15\)](#) (discussed below) and review of the Compliance Summary Tables (COC_308) under other agenda items.

Regarding [Rec. 11-15](#), the Chair noted that no action was necessary for COC, as the prohibition on retention of ICCAT species is automatic in the absence of submission of Task 1 data. He explained that the practice of the Secretariat, with guidance from the Compliance Committee, has been to send out a message following the annual meeting to relevant CPCs to encourage them to provide missing

information or a declaration of no catch, and to inform them of the application of a prohibition on retention of relevant ICCAT species effective 1 January in the absence of satisfaction of outstanding Task 1 reporting requirements.

d) Any other actions under the [Ref. 22-18](#)

The Chair presented “Compliance actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with Friends of the Chair group”. These draft recommendations were developed by the Chair in consultation with the Friends of the Compliance Chair Group, which the Chair thanked for its constructive input as reflected in the version presented to the Compliance Committee. The Chair explained that the recommended actions reflect the progressive implementation of [Ref. 22-18](#), taking into account some aggravating and mitigating factors. In presenting the recommendations, the Chair also noted that for CPCs that would receive letters, he will work with the Secretariat to do a careful review of CPC responses to letters sent following the 28th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2023 to determine if there are any issues identified for the CPC in 2023 but not addressed in their reply, and if so, will remind the CPCs of the need to provide a response on those issues as well. The Compliance Committee reviewed the recommended actions and some discussion occurred for certain CPCs’ status. The Committee approved the proposed Compliance actions (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**), and these were forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

13. Consideration of requests for Cooperating status

Under *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 03-20 on criteria for attaining the status of cooperating Non-contracting Party, Entity or Fishing entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 21-24), Cooperating status is deemed renewed unless the Commission takes action otherwise. Cooperating status is currently enjoyed by Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Suriname, and Guyana. There were no new requests for Cooperating status. While there were no proposals from CPCs to terminate Cooperating status for any CPCs, it was noted that Guyana had significant reporting deficiencies reflected in its Compliance Summary Table, including no Annual Report submitted in 2024 and no response to the Compliance Chair Letter following the 28th Special Meeting of the Commission in 2023. The Chair stressed that with Cooperating status comes with responsibilities. He committed to reminding Guyana in its letter of the potential for non-renewal of Cooperating status in the future if these deficiencies are not substantially improved. Cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana and Suriname, was deemed endorsed by the Compliance Committee; and it was forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

14. Considerations of updates to Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities in 2025

As previously discussed at this meeting, the Chair proposed that matters identified for priority review in 2024 are carried over to 2025 to provide more time for CPCs to submit relevant information and prepare for the meeting. The Chair also committed to send a circular to the Commission in early 2025 to seek additional input from CPCs for other topics. He noted that one additional measure that may be appropriate to review is ICCAT [Rec. 23-17](#), as that measure has a review clause and there was a CPC proposal this year to review and strengthen the measure. The COC could also consider prioritizing review of implementation of species-specific management measures for recommendations that are set to expire, with a view to having COC recommendations on how to strengthen the measure from a compliance perspective inform the relevant Panel as it develops a revised measure. Japan suggested a CPC by CPC review of the shark check sheet and implementation of shark Recommendations in 2025; the Chair concurred, noting that the check sheets are up for biennial review pursuant to the Recommendation that established the requirement.

15. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The Chair explained that this is a catch all for discussion of other ideas to improve compliance and the functioning of the Compliance Committee. He welcomed suggestions from CPCs.

The EU recommended that the Compliance Committee continue to explore ways to streamline its work and its documents. There is simply too much information available in compliance meeting documents. It is difficult for CPCs with limited resources to review. The complexity and volume of the information presented does not allow the Compliance Committee to focus on the issues that matter. Two specific ideas to streamline the Compliance Committee process: 1) screen documents to exclude those that are not useful and also analyze how to simplify reporting obligations; 2) for compliance documents deemed essential, seek ways to make them less complicated and more user friendly. Another option could be to have 2-3 year cycles and instead of reviewing compliance with all recommendations every year, do a more in-depth review of a part of the recommendations every year. We can consider intersessionally and present ideas in the future, and request that the Compliance Committee allocate time for this during the 2025 biennial special session of the Compliance Committee.

The Chair supported exploring the possibility of initiating this work during the intersessional period. He also suggested that even where a document is required, if CPCs are of the view that it is not helpful, the Compliance Committee could instruct the Secretariat to deprioritize its preparation. The Chair also found interesting the idea of exploring different recommendations in different years.

The United States agreed the volume of Compliance Committee documents is overwhelming, even for large delegations. They supported identifying documents that no longer serve a purpose and expressed an interest in engaging in any intersessional discussions of streamlining efforts.

Japan noted it also struggles to keep up with all of the documents and appreciated the EU's suggestions. Japan also expressed concern about so many successive versions that are submitted after the deadline and during the meeting, and proposed establishment of a strict deadline and time-limited period during which revisions are permitted. Japan also proposed the idea that the COC reviews every year only recommendations with qualitative obligations, such as TAC, since implementation status of such recommendations is changed every year, but that it reviews recommendations without quantitative obligations in a given year, noting that most CPCs do not need to update their regulations to comply with such recommendations on a yearly basis and compliance status is not so frequently changed.

The Chair and Executive Secretary both shared concern about the inefficiency and burden caused by excessive late submissions and revisions. The Secretariat reminded CPCs that they can use IOMS to enter data over time, rather than waiting to submit it in full at one time. CPCs are welcome to modify their draft entries throughout the year, and then submit the report once finished upon the due date.

Lastly, the Chair committed to exploring the possibility of conducting a review of 2024 Annual Reports during the first part of the intersessional period prior to the 2025 Meeting and provide CPCs with suggestions on ways they could improve their responses in their 2025 Annual Reports.

16. Other matters

The Chair proposed that unless a CPC raises a matter therein, the Compliance Committee should no longer dedicate an agenda item to reviewing the 2015 Independent Expert Panel's Performance Review and updating the chart of ICCAT responsive actions. Actions have already been taken for many of the recommendations. This will streamline compliance documents and reduce the administrative burden on the Secretariat. There was no objection to this proposed approach.

Statements were submitted by Senegal (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**) and the Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM) (German Foundation for Marine Conservation)" (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**). A Joint Statement by Ecology Action Centre, Shark Trust, and The Ocean Foundation (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**) was also submitted.

17. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of the Committee would be adopted by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress made by the Online reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and next steps
5. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee
6. Consideration of capacity building as a tool to improve compliance, including identification of available capacity building opportunities and CPC needs and requests for capacity building
7. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2023 meeting
8. Review of Compliance Annex (Compliance tables by species)
9. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under [Rec. 08-09](#)
10. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements
11. Review of information relating to NCPs
12. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 7
 - a) Endorsement of the Compliance Annex
 - b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation ([Rec. 06-13](#))
 - c) Action under data recommendations ([Recs. 05-09](#) and [11-15](#))
 - d) Any other actions under [Ref. 22-18](#)
13. Consideration of requests for cooperating status
14. Considerations of updates to Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities in 2025
15. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
16. Other matters
17. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

2024 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)

Summary of 2024 Working Group activities

The WG-ORT activities are planned annually at the February intersessional meeting to accommodate the deliberations of the preceding Commission Annual Meeting. The WG-ORT met virtually on 7-8 February 2024 to review progress on the development of the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and to plan future activities. The [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#) details the summarised activities.

During 2024, the Secretariat continued its progress in the development of the IOMS by completing Phase 3 (2 years: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2024) and starting Phase 4 (2 years: 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026). All IOMS development phases are presented in the WG-ORT workplan (Table 6 of [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#)). Great advancements were made to the two modules currently under active development, the Vessel Manager (containing the UN/FLUX) and the Form Manager. Both modules are foreseen to be released into production at the beginning of 2025. Also, in line with the permanent IOMS enhancement strategy, improvements have been constantly made to several IOMS administrative tools and functionalities (details in Table 2 of [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#)).

Vessel Manager module

Advancements in the development of two (out of three) Vessel Manager working modes (online and offline completion, to register and authorize vessels in the IOMS) allowed the Secretariat to do a “live” demonstration at the WG-ORT meeting, with two dedicated online training sessions held during 2024. Significant progress was also achieved on the integration of the UN/FLUX into the Vessel Manager module (3rd working mode). This functionality will allow an automatic exchange of vessel information between the IOMS and interested CPCs. Two additional sub-modules of the Vessel Manager aimed to handle Transshipment Authorizations and Chartering Arrangements, both with online and offline working modes, were developed intersessionally. These two sub-modules were presented and tested at the second training session dedicated to the Vessel Manager. Overall, the development of the Vessel Manager module is virtually completed and is now under heavy testing (Secretariat and IOMS users) to be released into production, as planned, in January 2025 with a requirement for CPCs to use the module to edit vessel characteristics and authorizations in April 2025. The automatic data exchange working mode (using UN/FLUX) and the Chartering Arrangements sub-module may be slightly delayed, as some additional time is required to address a couple of technical issues. This potential delay will not affect the timeline to release the Vessel Manager module into production.

Form Manager module

The development of the Form Manager module is virtually completed and under fine-tuning and heavy testing using several ICCAT standard forms. The remaining forms (35 out of a total of nearly 50 existing ICCAT forms) will be continuously added in the future as soon as each one becomes standardized. This continuous standardization process will increase the relevance of the Form Manager module, by consistently allowing additional information to be provided/managed by ICCAT CPCs through the IOMS. The Secretariat was also able to do a “live” demonstration at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Additionally, a training session on this module was held in June 2024. The module is ready to be released into production in January 2025 with a requirement for CPCs to submit the CP01 form through IOMS starting in April 2025.

Other relevant activities

To accelerate the IOMS user training process using the new modules, the Secretariat has created an IOMS testing environment (IOMS sandbox: <https://sandbox-ioms.iccat.int>) identical to the IOMS in production but with the new modules that can be used for practicing with the new developed functionality. The WG-ORT highly recommends that all IOMS users start using the new sandbox environment to train and additionally to collaborate on the development of the IOMS by identifying errors and recommending enhancements to the various modules.

The WG-ORT also established in 2024 an ad hoc working group to reduce redundancy in reporting requirements, one of the priority goals of the WG-ORT. It started its work by correspondence, on providing recommendations to Panel 4/COC on how to reduce redundancy in the shark measures. The first interim report is available as document PA4_807/2024.

To address several misunderstandings on the terminology (concepts, definitions, etc.) used by the IOMS in relation to the Vessel Manager module, the WG-ORT agreed to create the "IOMS glossary of terms and definitions". The draft was presented to and endorsed at the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). This glossary will evolve over time and cover all the terminology used by the IOMS. The WG-ORT will guide the development of this activity by the Secretariat and the support of the IMM and other pertinent ICCAT subsidiary bodies. At a later stage, it will also be published directly inside the IOMS.

After two years of work deliberating the open-source license type to be adopted for the IOMS, the WG-ORT has finally adopted the GPLv3 open-source licence (details in section 6 of [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#)) for the IOMS source-code.

Major updates to the WG-ORT Workplan

The 2024 WG-ORT workplan was rescheduled to accommodate the agreed changes to Phase 4 (just started) and Phase 5. The adopted workplan is presented in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**. The major changes, shown by order of priority, were:

- Phase 4 (1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026):
 - Complete the Vessel Manager module
 - Complete the Form Manager module
 - Start the Port Manager module
 - Start the Shark/Billfish Check Sheets Manager module
 - T1NC (Task 1 nominal catches) Manager module (2nd year)
 - Compliance Tables manager (2nd year)
 - Training workshops, as appropriate
- Phase 5 (1 June 2026 to 31 May 2028):
 - SDP Programme (SWO and BET) Manager module
 - BFT (bluefin tuna) weekly/monthly catch reports Manager module
 - T2CE (Task 2 catch & effort) Manager module
 - Other modules considered
 - Task 2 size frequency samples
 - Task 1 fleet characteristics
 - Transshipment declarations/reports, supply declarations
 - Port inspection / Joint Inspection Scheme reports
 - Fishing plans, Access agreements, etc.

The IOMS workplan will be revised by the WG-ORT at the 2025 intersessional meeting (February 2025), and potentially adjusted considering the progress achieved at the meeting and the priorities determined by the Commission at the 2024 Annual Meeting. These adjustments will include a more detailed overview of the activities and priorities scheduled for Phase 5.

2024 intersessional tasks

In addition to the various IOMS enhancements discussed/adopted (Table 2 of [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group \(WG-ORT\)](#)) the WG-ORT together with the Secretariat has planned the following list of intersessional work:

Follow up actions and intersessional WG-ORT tasks:

1. To review and adopt the February 2024 meeting report, including modifications to the workplan.
2. As part of the 2024 WG-ORT status report to be submitted to the Compliance Committee at the Annual Meeting, the Chair is to include details that describe Secretariat technical staff activities to develop and maintain the IOMS and to facilitate CPC reporting and is to identify future needs for addressing redundancy in reporting requirements. Relevant portions of this report will also be presented to STACFAD.

3. The Chair is to create the “IOMS glossary of terms and definitions” for review (and endorsement) by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).
4. The Compliance Department will raise the question of consistency of terminology among tuna RFMOs at the next meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network.
5. To consider adding Vessel Manager presentation to IMM (Secretariat to discuss with IMM Chair).
6. The Secretariat will provide further description of differences between the two main license options (EUPL v 1.2 and GPL v3) in the meeting report. The Chair will seek any strong concerns or preferences from WG-ORT members intersessionally by a determined date well in advance of FAO’s 1 July 2024 deadline. In the absence of a strong preference for one option from the majority of the group, the WG-ORT will defer to the expertise of the Secretariat.
7. The Chair will communicate with the Chairs of Panel 4 and COC on WG-ORT request for Panel 4 to modify and simplify the billfish and shark Check Sheets.
8. The Chair will coordinate with the Secretariat to confirm that [Rec. 22-17](#) does not need to be updated to require CPCs to use new modules in the IOMS, including the Vessel Manager and Form Manager, to fulfil reporting requirements.
9. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal for the next WG-ORT meeting on making appropriate IOMS data publicly available.
10. The Chair and the Secretariat will work intersessionally to develop a proposal for COC in 2024 on translating IOMS data into three languages and determine appropriate timing for requesting resources from STACFAD to develop this capability.
11. The WG-ORT will form an ad hoc working group to address redundancy. The Chair will solicit interested members from the WG-ORT. The ad hoc group will work intersessionally through correspondence and present an interim report to the Commission in 2024 and provide a formal presentation at the next WG-ORT meeting in 2025. The ad hoc group will identify additional funding and resource needs for this effort and present them to STACFAD (see item 2).
12. The Secretariat will make initial contact with FAO and IOTC regarding future implementation of the data exchanges required by the [ICCAT Rec. 23-17](#), with a view to developing efficient data sharing mechanisms for CPCs through a dedicated IOMS module in a future phase. The possibility of using UN/FLUX will be considered for such exchanges.

These tasks have progressed as planned and with no major adjustments. The majority of intersessional tasks are already completed (1 to 8, 10, 11, 12) at the time of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Task 9 will be addressed at the 2025 Intersessional Meeting of the WG-ORT. In review of Task 8, the WG-ORT Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, tabled a revision to [Rec. 22-17](#).

IOMS training sessions

The WG-ORT agreed to hold three IOMS training session in 2024, two focused on the Vessel Manager (30 April 2024 and 7 October 2024) and one focused on the Form Manager (24 June 2024). In all sessions participation averaged more than 70 individuals from 32 CPCs, as well various ICCAT Officers and the Secretariat staff. All the recorded training sessions remain available to ICCAT CPCs registered and potential IOMS users.

To facilitate the planning of the 2024 Commission meetings calendar, the WG-ORT has planned in advance two additional training sessions in 2025. The exact dates will be agreed at the next intersessional WG-ORT meeting.

Complementary support was given to the IOMS users of several CPCs during 2024, following explicit requests to the Secretariat for individual sessions. The Secretariat recalled that this complementary user support modality, also provided during the 2023 Commission Annual Meeting (Cairo, Egypt) with great success, will be maintained in the future.

2024 annual reporting

The ICCAT IOMS has been in production since 1 August 2021, with the Annual Report module (Section 3/Part 1 and Section 3/Part 2) available online for the last three years. The submission of Annual Reports via IOMS for 2021 (experimental year) and 2022 (recommended for online completion) served mostly for training purposes, whereas submission of the Annual Report (Section 3/Part 1 and Section 3/Part 2) via IOMS was a requirement from 2023 onwards (para 2 of [Rec. 22-17](#)).

As in previous years, the Secretariat assisted all ICCAT CPCs with the completion of the 2024 Annual Reports in IOMS, as recommended by the WG-ORT. A summary of statistical indicators regarding submission of Annual Reports via IOMS for the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (as of 2023-10-24) are presented in **Table 1**. Annual reports for 2021 and 2022 (probation years) were included for comparative purposes, mainly to observe the progress made by the ICCAT CPCs in using the IOMS.

In 2024, a total of 47 CPCs (44 Contracting Parties; 3 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) used the IOMS (82% of the 57 CPCs) to provide the two parts of Section 3 (Part 1: Statistical provisions; Part 2: Compliance provisions) of the 2024 Annual Reports. There are, however, some CPCs that have yet to fully complete and submit the first version or both sections of the 2024 Annual Report (Part 1: 5 CPCs; Part 2: 9 CPCs). Among all CPCs that used the IOMS, the number of CPCs requesting the Secretariat's support to complete the two sections of the Annual Report decreased consistently on average from 42% (24 CPCs) in 2021 to only 4% (3 CPCs) in 2024. This improving trend likely indicates an increasing gain of autonomy on the utilization of the IOMS by CPC users, reflecting the reasonable investment and success of the IOMS user support policy, particularly over the last two years.

In line with para 1 of [Rec. 22-17](#), all ICCAT CPCs have at least one IOMS users registered since the 2023 Annual Meeting. These and other statistical indicators are also available to IOMS registered users (both CPC roles: administrators and officers) in the IOMS online portal (<https://ioms.iccat.int>).

Section 2 - Part 2.2 of the 2024 Annual Report invited CPCs to inform the Commission of the primary difficulties encountered in the implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Only one CPC mentioned having encountered difficulties in using the IOMS system (see "[Information submitted by some CPCs in Section 2 - Part 2.2 of their Annual Report](#)" for further details).

Secretariat technical staff activities to develop and maintain the IOMS

The Secretariat includes 4 staff that work full time on the IOMS (2024-2025 budget), in addition to another staff member who dedicates 5% of their time to supervising the online management system. Additionally, an external expert, funded by the GEF, provides consulting services focused on system interoperability. These activities revolve around maintaining the current system, developing new modules, and assisting CPCs with using the platform. The workload of the Secretariat has increased significantly for IOMS-related tasks due to the implementation of new modules and the aggressive workplan of the WG-ORT to continue transitioning to online reporting.

The IOMS regular budget for 2024-2025 was increased to €328,846.67 for 2024 and €412,180 for 2025 (from € 212,180) by the Commission at its 2023 Annual Meeting. This increase has enabled the addition of two more full-time experts to the IOMS team, which previously consisted of only two staff members. It should be noted that any decreases to the budget or staff will prevent the Secretariat from simultaneously maintaining the system, developing new modules, or assisting CPCs.

2025 and beyond

In order to continue the WG-ORT's progress in reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and to increase access to valuable information, the WG-ORT requests to meet virtually during the 2025 intersessional period to continue its work on Phases 4 and 5 of the IOMS. The WG-ORT also supports the previously agreed two IOMS training session(s) to take place in 2025.

Table 1. Number of Annual Reports (and relative ratios) available in the IOMS for 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, by section, completion status, and completion mode (with/without Secretariat support). Values in “red” indicate the number of pending sections that must be completed by various CPCs as soon as possible.

Indicator	Section	Completion status	Party type	Year of annual report / Secretariat support [Yes/No]															
				2021				2022				2023				2024			
				No	Yes	pending	Total	No	Yes	pending	Total	No	Yes	pending	Total	No	Yes	pending	Total
number of annual reports	Compliance (Section 3/Part 2)	complete	CP	18	19		37	32	10		42	37	1		38	41			41
			NCC	1	3		4	5			5	5			5	3			3
		incomplete	CP	3	2	10	15	1	3	6	10			14	14	6	2	4	12
			NCC			1	1									1			1
		Total		22	24	11	57	38	13	6	57	42	1	14	57	51	2	4	57
	Statistical (Section 3/Part 1)	complete	CP	17	21		38	32	10		42	36	1		37	44			44
			NCC	2	2		4	5			5	5			5	3			3
		incomplete	CP	4	1	9	14	1	6	3	10	2	2	11	15	2	3	4	9
			NCC			1	1											1	1
		Total		23	24	10	57	38	16	3	57	43	3	11	57	49	3	5	57
Ratio (%)	Compliance (Section 3/Part 2)	complete	CP	32%	33%		65%	56%	18%		74%	65%	2%		67%	65%	2%		67%
			NCC	2%	5%		7%	9%			9%	9%			9%	9%			9%
		incomplete	CP	5%	4%	18%	26%	2%	5%	11%	18%			25%	25%			25%	25%
			NCC			2%	2%												
		Total		39%	42%	19%	100%	67%	23%	11%	100%	74%	2%	25%	100%	74%	2%	25%	100%
	Statistical (Section 3/Part 1)	complete	CP	30%	37%		67%	56%	18%		74%	63%	2%		65%	63%	2%		65%
			NCC	4%	4%		7%	9%			9%	9%			9%	9%			9%
		incomplete	CP	7%	2%	16%	25%	2%	11%	5%	18%	4%	4%	19%	26%	4%	4%	19%	26%
			NCC			2%	2%												
		Total		40%	42%	18%	100%	67%	28%	5%	100%	75%	5%	19%	100%	75%	5%	19%	100%

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

IOMS revised workplan (2024), covering the ongoing and future development phases

Phase	Priority	Module /Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. status	Start date	End date	Phase end	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/database	N/A	Complete	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	2	Module	IOMS Annual Report (Part II/Section 3, Part I/Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	Complete	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		Complete	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	2	COM-18	
1	1	Task	Training/workshop sessions (Phase 1)		Complete	2022-04-28	2022-09-01	2	COM-18	Two sessions (4 hours each)
1	1	Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)		Ongoing	2019-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-18	Continuous task (maintenance)
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	N/A	Complete	2021-03-31	2022-03-31	2	CPC (EU)	
2	1	Task	Adjustments to the new roles definition	N/A	Complete	2022-02-15	2022-03-15	2	COM-19	Adopted by WG-ORT 2022
2	1	Module	ICCAT Vessel Manager	Up to 21 data requirements (Vessel registration, 11 authorisation lists, carriers, chartering arrangements, transshipment authorizations, previous year activity)	Ongoing	2021-03-01	2024-10-31	4	COM-19 & CPC(EU)	Development extended to Phase 3 (10 additional months) jointly with UN/FLUX integration. Partially covered by EU voluntary contributions (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
2	1	Task	UN/FLUX integration into Vessel Manager	All requirements of Vessel registration and authorizations (11 lists)	Ongoing	2022-04-01	2024-10-31	4	CPC (EU)	EU contribution (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
2	2	Module	Enhancements to dynamic help system (generalization)	N/A	Complete	2022-04-01	2023-03-31	3	CPC (EU)	
2	1	Task	Vessels training/workshop session (1st session)	N/A	Planned	2024-04-29		4	COM-19	IOMS users preliminary tests on Vessel module
2	1	Task	Vessels training/workshop session (2nd session)	N/A	Planned	2024-10-09		4	COM-19	IOMS users preliminary tests on Vessel module (optional)
2	1	Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)	N/A	Planned	2020-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-19	Continuous task (maintenance)
3	1	Module	Form Manager	Module to upload and manage	Ongoing	2023-07-01	2024-09-30	4	COM-21	Includes improvements

Phase	Priority	Module /Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. status	Start date	End date	Phase end	Budget	Remarks
				all ICCAT forms (ST, CP, TG)						from workshops
3	1 Task	Form Manager workshop sessions		N/A	Planned	2024-07-04	TBD	4	COM-21	
3	1 Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)			Ongoing	2022-06-01	n/a	n/a	COM-21	Continuous task (maintenance)
4	1 Module	Port Manager		M:GEN11, M:GEN12, M:BFT20, M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Planned	2024-11-01	TBD	4	COM-21	
4	1 Module	Shark/billfish Check Sheets Manager		M:SHK05, M:BIL01	Planning	2024-12-01	TBD	4	COM-21	Not possible to reuse AR code. Requires big structural changes.
4	1 Task	Shark/billfish Check Sheets training/workshop sessions		N/A	Planned	TBD	TBD	4	COM-21	
4	3 Module	T1NC (Task 1 nominal catches) Manager		S:GEN03	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	Start may change (pending study on time required)
4	4 Module	Compliance tables (COCT) Manager		M:GEN03	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	Start may change (pending study on time required)
4	1 Task	T1NC/COCT training/workshop sessions		N/A	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
4	1 Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)		N/A	Planned	TBD	TBD		COM-23	
5	1 Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)		M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planning	TBD			COM-25	
5	2 Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager		M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:TRO14	Planning	TBD			COM-25	
5	3 Module	Task 2 - Catch and effort		S:GEN04	Planning	TBD			COM-25	
5	1 Task	Maintenance (including improvements & error fixing)			Planning	TBD			COM-25	

Complementary information on IOMS Phases:

Phase	Start	End	Budget (months)	COM meeting	Budget year	Budget type
Phase 1	2019-06-01	2020-05-31	12	annual	2018	Extraordinary
Phase 2	2020-06-01	2022-05-31	24	biennial	2019	Regular
Phase 3	2022-06-01	2024-05-31	24	biennial	2021	Regular
Phase 4	2024-06-01	2026-05-31	24	biennial	2023	Regular

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

2023 Compliance Tables received in 2024

Deadline: 15 August 2024

<i>Flag</i>	<i>Catches</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Adjustment</i>	<i>Date of receipt</i>
Angola	X	X		14/05/2024
Barbados	X	X	X	15/08/2024
Belize	X	X	X	09/08/2024
Bolivia	No catches			14/08/2024
Brazil	X	X	X	16/09/2024
Cabo verde				
Canada	X	X	X	24/06/2024
China	X	X	X	14/08/2024
Chinese Taipei	X	X	X	19/07/2024
Costa Rica	X	X	X	16/08/2024
Côte d'Ivoire	X	X		17/09/2024
Curaçao	X	N/A		07/08/2024
Egypt	X	X	X	15/09/2024
El Salvador	X	N/A	X	17/07/2024
EU	X	X	X	14/08/2024
France St. PM	X	X	X	30/07/2024
Gabon	No catches			17/09/2024
Ghana	X	X	X	06/08/2024
Grenade				
Guatemala	X	N/A		15/11/2024
Guinea Bissau				
Guinea Ecuatorial	No catches			17/06/2024
Guinée Rep.	X	N/A	X	18/09/2024
Guyana	No catches			09/09/2024
Honduras	No catches			18/09/2024
Iceland	X	X		19/07/2024
Japan	X	X	X	14/08/2024
Korea	X	X	X	26/07/2024
Liberia	X	X	X	12/08/2024
Libya	X	X		10/09/2024
Maroc	X	X	X	28/06/2024
Mauritanie	X	N/A		09/09/2024
Mexico	X	X	X	15/08/2024
Namibia	X	NA	X	15/08/2024
Nicaragua	No catches			10/09/2024
Nigeria				
Norway	X	X	X	12/08/2024
Panamá	X	N/A	X	24/07/2024
Philippines	No catches			15/07/2024
Russia	X	N/A		14/08/2024
Sao Tomé e P.	X	?		31/10/2024
Sénégal	X	X	X	16/08/2024
Sierra Leone	No catches			18/09/2024
South Africa	X	X	X	13/08/2024
St. V & G	X	N/A	X	10/09/2024
Suriname	X	N/A		24/07/2024
Syria	X	X	X	11/08/2024
T & Tobago	X	X	X	28/08/2024
The Gambia	X	N/A		13/11/2024
Tunisie	X	X	X	14/08/2024
Türkiye	X	X	X	14/08/2024
United Kingdom	X	X	X	15/08/2024
Uruguay	No catches		X	15/07/2024
USA	X	X	X	14/08/2024
Venezuela	X	X	X	15/08/2024

ICCAT REPORT 2024-2025 (I)

All quantities are in tonnes.
Data obtained from Task 1 whenever no data was reported in the Compliance Tables are shown in **bold**.

NORTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits									Current catches									Balance									Adjusted quota/catch limit								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
TAC	28000	28000	33600	33600	33600	37801	37801	37801	47251																											
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	38.10	15.90	14.60	7.12	10.18	12.50	11.74	13.90	201.90	224.10	235.40	257.88	254.82	283.25	284.01	288.60	240.00	240.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50		
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	398.50	488.44	385.14	216.09	326.05	200.65	214.33	380.65	51.50	1.56	64.86	200.47	138.95	295.10	281.42	121.85	450.00	450.00	450.00	416.56	465.00	495.75	495.75	502.50	362.50	362.50	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	261.50	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	302.50	362.50		
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	19.92	16.99	26.40	31.19	12.46	40.46	27.44	25.22	230.07	233.01	223.60	233.81	252.54	255.30	275.06	277.28	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	302.50	302.50	362.50		
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	103.20	123.65	123.84	129.16	207.66	291.32	239.87	190.50	146.80	126.35	126.16	135.84	57.34	4.43	55.88	55.93	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	246.43	357.88		
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3926.00	3926.00	3926.00	4416.90	4416.90	4416.90	5521.10	3134.00	2385.00	2026.00	2770.00	3549.00	2896.00	2806.00	2782.00	655.62	1404.62	1355.62	1773.93	1158.50	3032.40	3092.40	2539.13	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	4543.93	4707.50	5198.40	5198.40	5321.13	6425.33		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	150.56	248.70	0.00	75.91	14.19	0.00	19.27	27.15	99.38	1.30	201.30	189.09	250.81	295.75	276.48	275.35	250.00	250.00	201.30	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	302.50		
COSTA RICA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	4.65	11.23	4.90	1.35	0.64	2.34	1.49	0.66	245.37	238.77	245.10	263.65	268.11	293.41	301.84	301.84	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	302.50	362.50		
CURACAO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	10.00	10.00	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	190.00	178.50	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00											
EU	21551.30	21551.30	25861.60	25861.60	25861.60	29095.10	29095.10	29095.10	35815.90	24308.65	20699.71	25086.83	30076.99	25580.70	26095.09	26844.75	23360.39	233.05	6239.41	1007.82	-540.04	1288.72	2025.93	3096.82	7318.39	24541.70	26939.12	26094.65	29536.85	26869.42	28121.02	29941.57	30678.78	38912.72		
FRANCE (St P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	302.50				
GRENADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	50.23	61.81	37.08	23.22	22.12	5.75	2.54	11.09	149.77	138.19	162.92	191.78	192.88	236.25	239.46	230.91											
GUAYANA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.20	2.56	0.98	0.06				0.00	200.00	199.81	197.45	214.02	214.94	242.00	242.00	242.00											
JAPAN	449.52	394.89	393.98	397.33	371.77	505.18	556.85	598.74	601.18	254.90	335.00	210.60	319.27	282.80	223.40	241.60	219.10	194.62	59.89	183.38	78.05	88.97	281.78	315.25	382.08	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.			
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	13.18	7.90	27.27	48.48	115.90	114.61	124.28	105.64	236.82	242.10	222.73	216.52	149.10	181.14	171.47	196.86	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50			
LIBERIA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	90.00	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.74	118.00	197.10	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	300.76	200.00	200.00	200.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50				
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	29.00	40.00	60.00	90.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	240.00	236.00	255.75	235.75	212.50	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50		
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	2.19	0.38	7.19	0.29	1.45	0.72	0.64	0.20	247.81	249.62	242.81	264.71	263.55	295.03	295.11	302.30	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50		
PANAMA					215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00						175.92	182.90	180.67	168.85				89.08	112.85	115.08	133.66					265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50		
SENEGAL				215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00						4.36							210.64	215.00	242.00	242.00											
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	291.60	296.20	173.26	180.45	251.73	0.00	0.97	0.28	6.89	3.80	133.63	38.35	13.27	280.35	254.30	302.22	298.49	300.00	306.89	218.80	265.00	280.35	255.27	302.50	362.50		
SURINAME	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.32	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50	362.50			
THE GAMBIA				215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.73				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				248.94	268.95	280.70	290.10	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50				
TLS & TOROAO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	70.70	48.20	33.10	22.01	16.06	26.80	21.80	12.40	179.30	201.80	216.90	242.97	248.94	268.95	280.70	290.10	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50			
UK (*)	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	242.00	302.00	0.60	0.36	0.38	0.79	2.05	169.39	125.35	112.47	249.40	249.64	249.62	264.21	262.95	318.40	370.65	438.29	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	297.79	496.00	550.76	863.36		
USA	527.00	527.00	632.40	632.40	632.40	711.50	711.50	711.50	889.40	250.22	238.35	102.57	221.13	328.36	295.93	310.56	180.50	408.53	420.40	661.58	569.37	462.14	573.67	578.82	708.88	658.75	658.75	764.15	790.50	790.50	869.60	889.38	1067.28			
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	337.50	337.50	337.50	421.90	286.98	301.35	165.45	228.92	245.92	298.51	317.34	212.89	-702.19	-429.54	-294.99	-215.91	-161.83	-122.84	-102.68	21.93	-415.21	-128.19	-129.54	5.01	84.09	175.67	214.66	234.82	443.83		
TOTAL CATCH										29408.18	25359.37	29371.56	34375.36	31172.25	30896.36	31550.64	27986.95																			
Rec. number	13-05	16-06	17-04	17-04	17-04	20-03/04	21-04	21-04	23-05																	13-05	16-06	16-06	17-04	17-04	20-04	20-04	21-04	23-05	23-05	

BELIZE: Intends to use 1.56 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-06, para 7).
BELIZE: Receives a transfer of 200 t of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei for 2019/2020.
BELIZE: Intends to use 50 t of its underage from 2018 (Q2018*0.25=50 t) in 2020 (Rec. 16-06, para 7).
BELIZE: Intends to use 53.75 t of its underage from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 16-06, para 7); receiving a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 20-04, para 2).
BELIZE: Intends to use 53.75 t of its underage from 2020 in 2022 (Rec. 21-04, para 9); receiving a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 21-04, para 6).
BELIZE: Intends to use 53.75 t of its underage from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 21-04, para 9); receiving a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 21-04, para 6).
CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 4281.62 t (=3926+655.62-100-200) due to the inclusion of 2016 underage and 2018 initial catch quota and the respective transfers of 100 t to SVG and 200 t to Belize.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 4543.93 t (=3926+(3271.70*0.25)-200) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage and 2019 initial catch quota and the transfer of 200 t to Belize.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 4707.5 t (=3926*(1+0.25)-200) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of the transfer of 200 t to Belize.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t (=4416.9+3926*0.25-200) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of the transfer of 200 t to Belize.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t (=4416.9+3926*0.25-200) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2022 initial catch quota and the deduction of the transfer of 200 t to Belize.
EU: Authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of the unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).
EU: The EU adjusted quota for ALB-N takes into account the transfer of 1.52% of its initial quota to the United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.
JAPAN: Is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch.
JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = BET 2019 catch * 4% (para 6 of Rec. 16-06).
KOREA: Underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.
SENEGAL: Subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

[illegible]

BELIZE: Intends to use 1.98 t of its underage from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).

BELIZE: Belize's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

BELIZE: Intends to use 62.5 t of its underage from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).

BELIZE: Intends to use 62.5 t of its underage from 2020 in 2022 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).

BELIZE: Intends to use 62.5t of its underage from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).

BRAZIL: Brazil's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

BRAZIL: IQ2022+25% MAX2020-129.95 t [South Africa will invoke para 4f of ICCAT Rec. 16-07, supplemented by ICCAT Rec. 21-05 to cover the overshoot of its catch limits (URY: 26.47 BRA: 129.95 t)].

CHINA: Informed the Commission in 2017 of an adjusted quota of 25% in 2018.

CHINA: In accordance with paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-07, the 25% carryover request made by China at the 2017 regular Commission meeting was complemented using its underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and

19.37 t of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.

CHINA: In accordance with para 4b of Rec. 16-07, it wishes to request its intention as regards such carryover.

CHINA: China's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 25th Regular meeting

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 21st Special meeting.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11550.00 t (=9400*(1+0.25)-200) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Chinese Taipei's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of that year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 11524.00 t (=9400+2124) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 11244.00 t (=9400+1699) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2021 initial catch quota + 85 t (Rec. 16-07 para 4b) as complement from total underage from

the TAC.

EU: The EU's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

GUYANA: Guyana is currently reviewing the reporting of this species to confirm that it has not confused it with northern albacore with

in: https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf. “Until such time we will continue to report the stock as is.”

N.B.: This suspicion is guided by the reporting of this species under the northern stock in the past e.g. in 2019 Task 1 - Nominal Catches.

KOREA: Underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

JAPAN: 2017 to 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t tra

JAPAN: Informed the Commission in 2017 that its underage in 2016 would be carried over to the 2018 initial limit (Rec. 16-C)

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: Informed the Commission in 2019 that its underage in 2018 would be carried over to the 2020 initial limit (F

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(limit)-418.7 t(2017 overage (para 5 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 100 t (transfer from S. Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 800 t (transfer from S. Africa (Circular #0888/19)).

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2019 was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(limit)+239.25 t(2018 carry over (para 4a of Rec. 16-07))+99.5 t(complement from underage from the total TAC(para 4b of Rec.16-07))+100 t(transfer from Brazil(para 3 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t(transfer from S. Africa(para 3 of Rec. 16-07))+500 t(transfer from S. Africa (Circular #1304/2020))+200 t(transfer from Chinese Taipei (Circular #4313/2020))+100 t(transfer from Brazil (Circular #4498/2020)).

JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(limit)+338.75 t(2019 carry over(1355*25%) (para 4a of Rec. 16-07)).

NAMIBIA: Namibia's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

PHILIPPINES: The multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.

SENEGAL: Subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

SOUTH AFRICA: transferred 800 t of its ALB-S to Japan in 2019.

SOUTH AFRICA: It transferred 500 t of its ALB-S to Japan in 2020.

SOUTH AFRICA: In accordance with Rec. 16-07, South Africa is also transferring 100 t of its ALB-S to Japan until 2020.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of that year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa will invoke para 4f of Rec. 16-07, supplemented by Rec. 21-05 to cover the over shoot of its catch limits (URY: 26.47 BRA: 129.95 t).

SVG: St Vincent and Grenadines' underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of that year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

URUGUAY: Uruguay's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of that year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

URUGUAY: Adjusted limit 2022 = initial limit 2022 (440) + available balance 2020(not to exceed 25% of initial quota) (110) - 26.47t [ZAF will invoke para 4f of the ICCAT Rec. 16-07, supplemented by ICCAT Rec. 21-05 to cover the over shooting of its catch limits (URY: 26.47, BRA: 129.95t)].

MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE

	<i>Initial catch limits</i>			<i>Current catches</i>		<i>Balance</i>		<i>Adjusted quota/catch limit</i>			
<i>YEAR</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>
<i>TAC</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>2500</i>								
EGYPT	177.27	150.27	150.27	177.00	164.00	0.27	-13.73			136.54	
EU	2169.68	2089.93	2089.93	1857.72	1940.57	311.96	224.36		2164.93	2164.93	
LIBYA	23.00	23.00	23.00	90.00	150.00	-67.00	-194.00		-44.00	-171.00	
MAROC	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.70	0.50	0.30				
SYRIA	1.80	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	1,80	1,80				
TÜRKİYE*	118.25	225.00	225.00	118.25	149.95	0.00	0.05		150.00	150.00	
TOTAL CATCH				2252.47	2414.22						
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>22-05</i>	<i>22-05</i>	<i>22-05</i>					<i>22-05</i>	<i>22-05</i>	<i>22-05</i>	<i>22-05</i>

*N.B.: Türkiye transferred to the EU 75 t in 2023, 75 t in 2024 and for the following years, any part of the unused quota up to a maximum of 75 t.

BELIZE: Intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).
 BELIZE: Is carrying forward 40% of its initial catch limit (52 t).
 BELIZE: Intended to use 52 t of its underage from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).
 BELIZE: Intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).
 BELIZE: Intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 21-02, para 1b); receiving a transfer of SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).
 BRAZIL: IQ2018=OQ2018 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2017=25+20=50 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 13-02).
 BRAZIL: IQ2019= OQ2019 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2018=25+20= 45 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 16-03).
 BRAZIL: From 2015 to 2022: 25 t transferred to Mauritania.
 CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.
 CANADA: 2020 adjusted quota=initial allocation+transfers (from Senegal 125 t, Japan 35 t, Chinese Taipei 35 t, and the EU 100 t)+underage from 2018 (202.2 t-max. carry forward).
 CANADA: 2021 adjusted quota = initial allocation+transfers (from Senegal 150 t, Japan 35 t, Chinese Taipei 35 t, and the EU 200 t)+underage from 2019 (202.2 t-max. carry forward).
 CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2018=initial quota(100)-12(payment quota)+available balance of 2016(2.443 t)=90.443 t.
 CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2019=initial quota(100)-12.726(payment quota)+available balance of 2017(6.69 t)=93.964 t
 CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2020=initial quota(100)+available balance of 2018(3.95 t)=103.95 t.
 CHINA: Payback plan for the overharvest of 2015: payback 12 t in 2017, payback 12.726 t in 2018, payback 12.726 t in 2019.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 343 t(=270+270*40%-35) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 40% of 2018 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: As clarified by the Commission at its 21st Special Meeting, catches should include dead discards. Revised Catch(B) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 85.07 t, 133.41 t and 151.72 t, respectively.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 343 t(=270+270*40%-35) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 40% of 2019 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: Catches(B) from 2014 to 2018 have included dead discards.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 323 t (=270+270*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is $323 \text{ t} (=270+270*40\%-35-20)$ due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is $323 \text{ t} (=270+270*40\%-35-20)$ due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2022 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

GUYANA: 2022, these catches were initially reported as SWO-S which seemed incorrect based on this source: https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf.

KOREA: Underage up to 50% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

KOREA: In 2015 2.29 t of dead discards were not included in the catch amount in the compliance table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: Quota transfer in 2018 from EU-Spain to Canada of 300 t.

EU: Informed the Secretariat that "it seems that the transfer between France and St Pierre et Miquelon did not take place in 2017. For this reason, the 40 t supposed to be transferred have not been deducted from the 2017 quota."

EU: The underharvest of the EU in 2017 is of 1852.04 t, which corresponds to more than 15% of its quota. In line with Rec. 17-02 the EU can only carry over to 2019, 15% of its 2017 initial catch limit (i.e. 1007.7 t).

EU: For 2019 the adjusted limit is calculated by taking into account the transfers to Canada (300 t from EU-Spain) and of 40 t to St Pierre et Miquelon as provided for in Rec. 17-02.

EU: The EU adjusted quota for SWO-N takes into account the transfer of 0.01% of its initial quota to the United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

JAPAN: Adjusted limit in 2017 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 16-03).

JAPAN: Adjusted limit in 2018 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 17-02).

JAPAN: As Mauritania did not submit its North Atlantic swordfish development plan in 2018, the transfers provided for in Rec. 17-02 are considered null.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota/catch limit of SWO-N for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are corrected. Correct figures have been used in the "form for the application of over/underharvest".

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit= $842 \text{ t}(\text{limit})+842*0.15(2017 \text{ carryover (para 3 of Rec. 17-02)})-100 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Morocco (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})-35 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})$.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit= $842 \text{ t}(\text{limit})+544 \text{ t}(2018 \text{ carryover (para 4 of Rec. 17-02)})-100 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Morocco (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})-35 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})-25 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})$.

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit= $842 \text{ t}(\text{limit})+831.01 \text{ t}(2019 \text{ carryover (para 4 of Rec. 17-02)})-150 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Morocco (para 1a of Rec. 19-03)})-35 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})-25 \text{ t}(\text{transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)})$.

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota: $995 \text{ t} = \text{initial quota allocated to Morocco (850 t)} + 150 \text{ t}(\text{transferred by Japan to Morocco}) + 20 \text{ t}(\text{transferred by Chinese Taipei}) + 25 \text{ t}(\text{transferred by T\&T (Rec. 19-03/para 1 amending Rec. 17-02)}) - 50 \text{ t overharvest in 2018}$.

MOROCCO: 2021 adjusted quota: the total of 1095 t has been confirmed for the year 2021, in addition to the current quota of 950 t (850 t+100 t from Japan) and following the agreement of the relevant CPCs, an additional quota of 95 t will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t)+50 t underharvest in 2019.

MOROCCO: 1101.66 t will be confirmed once Morocco obtains for 2022, in addition to the current quota of 950 t, an additional quota of 95 t that will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t)+56.66 t (15% initial quota) underharvest 2020.

MOROCCO: 2022 adjusted quota: 1172.5 t will be confirmed once Morocco has obtained for 2023 in addition to the initial quota of 850 t and underage of 127.50 t (15% of the initial quota) an additional quota of 195 t which will be transferred to Japan (150 t) from Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and Chinese Taipei (20 t).

MOROCCO: A quota of 200 t (transfer from the United States for the year 2024) according to the bilateral arrangement between Morocco and the US, transfer details and notification to ICCAT in the fishing plan.

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 June 2018 of its decision to transfer 25 t to Canada (Rec. 17-02).

SENEGAL: 2018 adjusted limit= $2018 \text{ catch limit} + (2017 \text{ catch limit} * 0.4) - \text{Canada transfer} = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - (125 + 25) = 200 \text{ t}$.

SENEGAL: 2019 adjusted limit= $2019 \text{ limit} + \text{max. balance}(\text{limit } 2018 * 0.4) - \text{transfer Canada}(125 \text{ t}) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 \text{ t}$.

SENEGAL: 2020 adjusted limit= $2020 \text{ limit} + \text{max. balance}(\text{Limit } 2019 * 0.4) - \text{transfer Canada}(125 \text{ t}) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 \text{ t}$.

SENEGAL (*): Subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

UK-OT: 50% carry forward of underage until 2017, and then a 40% carry forward of underage; 50%=17.50; 40%=14.00.

USA: 2016-2017 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018-2020.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

	Initial catch limits										Current catches										Balance										Adjusted quota/catch limit									
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025					
TAC	15000	15000	14000	14000	14000	14000	14000	10000	10000																															
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.66	74.38	8.69			86.50	100.00	100.00	100.00	66.34	25.62	91.31														
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	149.60	166.01	115.22	55.33	2.12	29.08	0.00	0.00	137.90	108.99	172.28	219.67	272.88	245.92	274.94	262.50	287.50	275.00	287.50	275.00	275.00	275.00	274.94	262.50	262.50	262.50					
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2934.78	2406.03	2798.00	2858.83	2105.00	2823.00	2197.00	1984.00	2137.22	2665.97	1880.00	1819.17	2573.00	1855.00	2481.00	2300.00	5072.00	5072.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4284.00	4284.00	4284.00	4284.00					
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	222.22	301.58	354.85	210.91	88.54	36.73	187.61	109.44	119.68	13.76	37.05	115.85	261.51	338.87	187.99	234.86	341.90	315.34	391.90	326.76	350.05	375.60	375.60	344.30	344.30	344.30					
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	478.00	416.00	472.10	395.31	353.05	532.00	420.00	379.00	57.90	100.90	87.80	151.49	197.75	18.80	57.80	125.90	535.90	516.90	559.90	546.80	550.80	550.80	477.80	504.90	504.90						
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	25.21	16.80	46.80	101.46	17.20	0.00	23.78	2.44	162.29	170.70	128.20	73.54	157.80	150.00	126.22	147.56	187.50	187.50	175.00	175.00	175.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00						
CURACAO											0.17																													
EL SALVADOR											0.06																													
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	5461.54	5120.23	4776.32	4508.96	4750.20	4695.12	3802.12	5277.93	139.52	104.15	187.20	419.19	261.00	548.07	1282.88	28.47	5601.06	5224.38	4963.52	4928.15	5011.20	5243.19	5085.00	5306.40	5306.40	5306.40					
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	36.00	55.10	6.10	0.00	0.00	18.80	16.40	21.05	64.00	44.90	93.90	100.00	100.00	81.20	83.60	78.95	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00					
GUATEMALA											0.06																													
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	870.90	659.50	698.00	662.04	444.00	659.00	516.50	332.10	488.56	340.20	641.56	529.16	1007.00	721.16	934.50	1118.90	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	1191.20	1451.00	1380.16	1451.00	1451.00	1451.00	1451.00					
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	19.25	10.92	17.18	8.70	15.41	5.56	6.37	4.57	28.12	54.08	42.82	51.30	44.59	54.44	53.63	50.43	47.37	65.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	55.00	55.00	55.00					
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	466.00	717.00	881.00	811.28	789.24	252.99	1083.00	664.50	1202.40	951.40	670.60	740.32	762.36	1248.61	368.60	670.31	1668.40	1668.40	1551.60	1551.60	1551.60	1501.60	1451.60	1334.80	1268.00	1268.00					
PHILIPPINES	50.00									0.00								50.00									50.00													
PANAMA											0.09																													
S.T. & PRINCIPLE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	77.40	64.50		1.00	11.90	3.80	13.80	10.60	10.95	22.60	42.70	99.00	88.10	96.20	86.20	89.40	89.05	100.00	112.10												
SENEGAL (*)	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	173.30	159.96	92.80	166.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	346.57	340.44	407.60	333.50	500.40	500.40	500.40	458.70	519.87	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	458.70	458.70	458.70					
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	124.40	159.96	188.70	288.56	149.47	228.99	160.58	291.24	1126.90	1092.30	962.50	862.64	1001.73	922.21	990.62	759.86	1251.30	1251.30	1151.20	1151.20	1151.20	1151.20	1051.10	1051.10	101.10	101.10					
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES										4.69	6.20	4.19	14.84	0.00	31.86	75.35	0.00	-4.69	-10.89	-15.08	-29.92	-29.92	-61.78	-137.13	-137.13		-4.69	-10.89	-15.08	-29.92	-29.92	-61.78	-137.13	-137.13	-137.13					
UK	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00	30.00	27.50	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50					
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40					
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	100.00	100.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00					
TOTAL CATCH										11043.29	10272.72	10452.26	10095.02	8718.03	9360.60	8573.69	9085.91																							
Rec. number	15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03	17-03	21-03	22-04	22-04																		15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03	17-03	21-03	22-04	22-04	22-04				

BELIZE: Intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of SWO-S from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03).

BELIZE: Is carrying forward 20% of its initial catch limit (25 t).

BELIZE: Intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of SWO-S from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03, para 5).

BELIZE: Intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of SWO-S from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03, para 5).

BELIZE: Intends to use 20% of its initial catch limit (25 t) in 2020 to be used in 2022 + transfer of 24.94 t from the United States + transfer of 50 t from Brazil + transfer of 50 t from Uruguay to Belize.

BELIZE: Intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 21-03, para 1b); receiving a transfer of SWO-S from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03, para 5).

BRAZIL: From 2014 to 2022: 50 t transferred to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 559.90 t(=459+100.9) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 546.8 t(=459+87.80) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 550.8 t(=459*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2020 initial catch quota.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 550.8 t(=459*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2021 initial catch quota.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 477.8 t(=459 + 18.8) due to the inclusion of 2021 underage and 2022 initial catch quota.

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit (Rec. 13-03), (Rec. 15-03), (Rec. 16-04).

JAPAN: Adjusted limit from 2011 to 2021 excluded 50 t transferred to Namibia (Rec. 09-03 to Rec. 17-03).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=901 t(limit)+340.2 t(2017 carryover (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03))-50 t(transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit=901 t (limit)+600 t(2018 carryover (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03))-50 t(transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03)).

JAPAN: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit=901 t(limit)+529.16 t(2019 carryover (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03))-50 t(transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03)).

KOREA: Underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

SENEGAL (*): Subject to revision based on results of further investigations relating to potential overharvest.

SOUTH AFRICA: From 2016 to 2020, South Africa transferred 50 t to Namibia in accordance with Recs. 16-04/17-03.

USA: The 2016-2020 adjusted quota reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) in accordance with Rec. 16-04/17-03.

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

	Initial catch limits							Current catches						Balance					
YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC*	10185	9879	9583	9296	9017	9017	9017												
ALBANIA																			
ALGÉRIE	533.49	517.49	501.98	486.94	472.33	472.33	472.33	528.00	517.49	500.95	451.48	471.78	471.75	5.49	0.00	1.02	35.46	0.55	0.58
EGYPT									5.00	4.00	12.00	26.00	73.00						
EU	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	6363.63	6363.63	3937.33	5197.78	4820.39	4571.46	4389.96	4614.95	3250.84	1774.74	1942.96	1988.98	1973.67	1748.68
LIBYA								70.00	26.00	112.00	200.00	300.00	250.00						
MAROC	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	896.47	896.47	1013.00	982.26	951.00	924.20	890.86	896.47	0.61	0.00	1.79	0.00	5.61	0.00
SYRIA								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
TUNISIE	977.45	948.13	919.68	892.09	865.33	865.33	865.33	974.00	934.00	917.92	890.66	857.23	733.22	3.45	14.13	1.78	1.43	8.10	132.11
TÜRKİYE	427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70	378.70	378.70	427.00	414.00	402.40	389.99	378.70	378.69	0.77	0.94	0.09	0.43	0.00	0.01
TOTAL CATCH								6949.33	8076.53	7708.66	7439.79	7314.53	7418.08						
Rec. number	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05												

*N.B. 3% reduction from 10,500 t, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits										Current catch										Balance										Adjusted quota/catch limit										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
TAC	19296	22705	26200	32240	36000	36000	36000	40570	40570																																
ALBANIA	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	264.00	264.00	45.79	56.00	100.00	156.25	167.67	148.40	177.50	263.87	0.51	0.91	0.00	-0.25	2.08	21.60	1.00	0.13	46.30	56.91	100.00	156.00	169.75	170.00	178.50	264.00								
ALGERIE	202.98	243.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	1655.00	2023.00	2023.00	448.39	1037.67	1299.99	1436.95	1648.68	1649.86	1654.00	1999.93	4.59	6.03	6.01	9.05	6.32	5.14	1.00	23.07	452.98	1043.70	1306.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	1655.00	2023.00	2046.00							
CHINA	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	112.00	112.00	53.89	64.38	78.99	88.96	100.99	100.99	71.90	115.80	0.01	0.33	0.01	1.04	1.01	1.01	30.10	1.30	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	117.10	113.30							
CHINESE TAIPEI	58.28	69.97	79.00	84.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	101.00	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	40.00	40.00		48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	51.00	51.00							
EGYPT	94.67	113.67	181.00	266.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	513.00	513.00	99.33	123.67	180.99	263.34	122.08	326.61	67.08	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.01	2.66	3.30	3.30	40.00		99.67	123.67	181.00	266.00	330.00	330.00	70.38	5.13								
EU	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	19460.00	19460.00	21503.00	21503.00	10974.35	13084.30	15584.70	17064.09	19134.03	19163.67	18950.90	21104.23	229.19	367.06	265.30	558.91	325.97	573.90	1034.60	1371.77	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	19727.57	19985.50	22476.00	22578.15							
GUINEA BDL													6.84																												
ICELAND	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	224.00	224.00	5.76	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.54	0.21	8.66	37.09	52.06	84.00	147.00	179.30	224.46	224.79	223.34	42.85	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	225.00	225.00	224.00							
JAPAN	1608.21	1930.08	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00	2819.00	2819.00	3114.00	3114.00	1578.27	1910.65	2269.76	2523.73	2781.63	2779.99	2871.26	3087.99	4.84	0.23	9.24	20.27	57.64	96.63	44.39	70.40	1582.21	1910.08	2279.00	2544.00	2839.27	2876.64	2915.65	3158.59	3184.40							
KOREA	113.66	136.46	160.00	184.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	221.00	221.00	161.00	181.19	207.97	232.43	247.27	242.24	252.28	273.55	2.58	0.27	2.03	1.57	4.30	12.06	7.72	5.17	163.66	181.46	210.00	234.00	251.57	254.30	266.00	278.72	276.17							
LIBYA	1323.28	1582.77	1846.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	2548.00	2548.00	1367.80	1630.75	1791.60	2051.65	2228.20	2234.10	2226.42	2538.00	5.48	8.02	8.40	8.35	26.80	20.82	28.58	1.00	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	2548.00								
MAROC	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3284.00	3284.00	3284.00	3700.00	3700.00	1783.30	2141.20	2571.00	2920.00	3453.71	3294.26	3565.05	3664.00	9.68	11.51	7.80	28.00	34.91	24.65	3.22	39.00	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3488.62	3318.91	3568.27	3703.00	3739.00	3780.00						
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00								
NAMIBIA																																									
NORWAY	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	368.00	368.00	43.80	50.86	12.31	49.30	194.39	157.68	123.17	117.44	-0.09	1.53	91.69	189.70	117.56	157.32	191.83	265.56	43.71	52.39	104.00	239.00	311.95	315.00	315.00	383.00								
SENEGAL																																									
SYRIA	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	129.00	129.00	47.39	56.91	66.00	71.97	79.20	0.00	79.20	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.80	0.80	0.80	1.00	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	1.00	1.00							
TUNISIE	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2655.00	2655.00	2655.00	3000.00	3000.00	1490.58	1789.54	2102.09	2379.13	2653.38	2729.74	2652.79	2989.87	1.13	1.46	12.91	20.87	22.02	26.01	26.93	30.13	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2675.40	2755.75	2679.72	3020.00	3030.00							
TÜRKİYE	785.59	943.21	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00	2305.00	2600.00	2600.00	1324.30	1514.70	1283.70	1770.78	2257.88	2266.18	2294.85	3281.15	137.52	260.30	130.30	109.22	47.12	38.82	10.15	-35.13	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00	2305.00	3246.02	3200.74							
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	48.40	63.00	63.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.92	1.61	22.10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	50.82	65.42	66.15							
TOTAL CATCH	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08	22-08	22-08	19424.13	23642.23	27555.95	31008.58	35069.80	35097.25	34991.23	39458.59										14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08	22-08	22-08	22-08					

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Agreed to transfer 50 t of its 2019 quota to Korea (Rec. 18-02).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 34 t (=84-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

EU: The EU adjusted quota for BFT takes into account the transfer of 0.25% of its initial quota to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota in 2017 excluded 20 t transferred to Korea.

JAPAN: Current catch for 2017 includes 5.3 t of dead discards as reported in Task 1 data.

JAPAN: Current catch for 2018 includes 7.42 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=2544.00 t(limit) (para 5 of Rec. 18-02).

JAPAN: Current catch for 2019 includes 9.25 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 2819.00 t(limit) (para 5 of Rec. 19-04)+20.27 t(2019 carryover (para 7 of Rec. 19-04)).

KOREA: Since 2018, Chinese Taipei has transferred 50 t of its quota to Korea every year.

KOREA: Korea carried forward its unused quota of 2019 (1.57 t) to 2020.

LIBYA: Transferred 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota=2020 national adjusted quota following the transfer (204.62 t) of Egypt (3284+204.62=3488.62 t).

MOROCCO: 2021 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 34.91 t (3284+34.91=3318.91 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MOROCCO: 2022 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 24.65 t and transfer from Egypt of 259.62 t (3284+24.65+259.62=3568.27 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MOROCCO: The 2023 adjusted quota includes the carryover of the remaining 3 t (3700+3=3703 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MOROCCO: The national adjusted quota for 2024, following the transfer of the remaining 39 t (3700+39=3739 t), in accordance with Morocco's fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

MAURITANIA: May catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, para 5).

MAURITANIA: May catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if it respects the rules on reporting of catches defined in the Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

NORWAY: According to Rec. 19-04 para 5, Norway was initially allocated a quota of 300 t of eastern BFT in 2020. Referring to Rec. 19-04, para 7, Norway requested in Panel 2 to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. A total of 49.3 t of the Norwegian catch quota (239 t) was utilised in 2019, and 11.95 t (5% of 239 t) may, according to para 7, be transferred to 2020.

SENEGAL: May catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if it respects the rules on reporting of catches defined in the Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

SYRIA: In accordance with Rec. 19-04 para 10, Syria will transfer 79.2 t to Tunisia to be caught by vessel *Mohamed Essadok* (AT000TUN00051) only for this fishing season 2021.

TÜRKİYE: The adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 t is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 by Türkiye in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

TÜRKİYE: The national adjusted quota for 2023 has been 3246.02 t following (1) the inclusion of a carryover of 10.15 t underharvest from 2022, (2) 635.87 t of quota transferred from Egypt and Syria as per paragraph 8 of Rec.22-08.

TÜRKİYE: The national adjusted quota for 2024 has been 3200.74 t following (1) the deduction of an overharvest of 35.13 t that occurred in 2023, (2) the inclusion of 507.87 t of quota transferred from Egypt and (3) 128 t of quota transferred from Syria, as per paragraph 8 of Rec. 22-08.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from the European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See Circular ICCAT #4088 / 21 (48.40 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.25% of BFT-E EU+UK TAC.

WEST BLUEFIN

	Initial catch limits									Current catches								Balance								Adjusted quota/catch limit										
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
TAC	2000	2000	2350	2350	2350	2350	2726	2726	2726																											
BRAZIL																	0.50																			
CANADA	452.47	452.47	530.59	530.59	530.59	530.59	558.65	558.65	558.65	473.69	473.03	553.98	632.87	591.60	628.53	635.17	610.31	60.79	80.67	95.84	20.84	44.05	51.33	39.59	53.10	534.48	553.70	649.82	653.71	635.65	679.86	674.76	663.42	671.75		
FRANCE (SL P & M)	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	6.18	6.18	9.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.32	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31	2.06	3.46	4.46	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	1.53	2.06	3.46	4.46	10.64		
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	407.48	407.48	664.52	664.52	664.52	345.49	345.83	407.00	406.29	407.58	409.57	657.80	624.68	1.34	1.25	1.73	2.92	2.82	0.73	7.45	47.28	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	410.40	410.30	665.25	671.97	711.80		
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	128.44	128.44	149.34	149.34	149.34	55.00	34.00	80.00	39.00	28.00	62.00	60.00	39.00	23.98	42.98	17.44	46.44	67.44	33.44	62.78	113.12	78.98	76.98	97.44	85.44	95.44	95.44	122.78	152.12	202.46		
UK	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	6.18	6.18	0.00	0.46	0.41	0.34	1.42	0.71	0.00	0.55	8.00	8.56	10.21	9.87	9.20	9.91	11.49	11.81	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	10.62	10.62	11.49	12.36	12.36		
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1341.14	1341.14	1341.14	1026.70	996.80	1028.26	1190.78	1184.99	1205.69	1361.89	1311.26	165.47	195.37	352.98	209.37	215.16	194.46	106.54	136.42	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	1400.15	1400.15	1468.43	1447.68	1475.25		
TOTAL LANDING										1910.22	1850.12	2069.65	2269.28	2213.59	2306.50	2714.86	2586.30																			
Discards																																				
CANADA																																				
JAPAN																																				
USA																																				
TOTAL DISCARDS																																				
TOTAL REMOVAL																																				
Rec. number	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07	22-10	22-10																		14-05	14-05	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07	22-10	22-10	22-10

CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: As of 2018, the Canadian fishing season opens on 24 June and closes on 23 June of the subsequent year. All 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 15 t allocation for bycatch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a and Rec. 20-06 para 1(4).

FRANCE (SPM): Would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 9.62 t of bluefin tuna from its 2018 and 2019 quota allocation.

FRANCE (SPM): Would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 4.78 t of bluefin tuna from its 2020 and 2021 quota allocation.

JAPAN: The underharvest of up to 10% of the initial quota allocation may be added to next year (Rec. 14-05, 16-08, 17-06).

JAPAN: Current catch for 2018 includes 1.10 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=407.48 t(limit)+1.73 t(2018 carryover (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

JAPAN: Current catch for 2019 includes 0.21 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit=407.48 t(limit)+2.92 t (2019 carryover (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

MEXICO: Transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2017 is 73.98 t (Rec. 16-08, para 6d).

MEXICO: Transfer of 60.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2018 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

MEXICO: Transfer of 79.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2019 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

MEXICO: Transfer of 100.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2020 to Canada (Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

USA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 25 t allocation for bycatch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a and Rec. 20-06 para 1(4).

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit/Threshold ⁽¹⁾										Current catches										Balance										Adjusted quota/catch limit									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁽²⁾	2021 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	2022 ⁽⁴⁾	2023 ⁽⁴⁾	2024 ⁽⁴⁾	2025 ⁽⁴⁾	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025										
TAC	65000	65000	65000	65000	62500	61500	62000	62000	62000	62000																														
ANGOLA					3,00	3,00	3,00	3,00	3,00	3,00																														
BARBADOS					22,74	22,74	22,74	22,74	22,74	22,74																														
BELIZE					1603,40	1577,75	1590,50	1590,50	1590,50	1590,50																														
BRAZIL ^(*)					6043,00	5946,31	5994,66	5994,66	5994,66	5994,66																														
CABO VERDE					1781,68	1753,17	1767,42	1767,42	1767,42	1767,42																														
CANADA					215,37	215,37	215,37	215,37	215,37	215,37																														
CHINA	5376,00	5376,00	5376,00	5376,00	4462,08	4390,69	4426,38	4426,38	4426,38	4426,38																														
CHINESE TAIPEI	11679,00	11679,00	11679,00	11679,00	9226,41	9078,79	9152,60	9152,60	9152,60	9152,60																														
COLOMBIA					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
COSTA RICA					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
CÔTE D'IVOIRE					559,09	559,09	559,09	559,09	559,09	559,09																														
CURACAO	3500,00	3500,00	3500,00	3500,00	2558,87	2517,93	2538,40	2538,40	2538,40	2538,40																														
EL SALVADOR	1575,00	1575,00	1575,00	1575,00	1552,77	1527,93	1540,35	1540,35	1540,35	1540,35																														
EU	16989,00	16989,00	16989,00	16989,00	13421,31	13206,57	13313,94	13313,94	13313,94	13313,94																														
FRANCE (SP&M)					0,10	0,10	0,10	0,10	0,10	0,10																														
GABON					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
GHANA	4250,00	4250,00	4250,00	4250,00	3968,23	3904,74	3936,48	3936,48	3936,48	3936,48																														
GRENADA					911,93	911,93	911,93	911,93	911,93	911,93																														
GUATEMALA					22,23	22,23	22,23	22,23	22,23	22,23																														
GUINEA-BISSAU					10,53	10,53	10,53	10,53	10,53	10,53																														
GUINEE-ÉPÉE					1000,22	984,22	992,22	992,22	992,22	992,22																														
GUAYANA					29,27	29,27	29,27	29,27	29,27	29,27																														
JAPAN	17696,00	17696,00	17696,00	17696,00	13979,84	13756,16	13868,00	13868,00	13868,00	13868,00																														
KOREA	1486,00	1486,00	1486,00	1486,00	992,00	992,00	992,00	992,00	992,00	992,00																														
LIBERIA					31,53	31,53	31,53	31,53	31,53	31,53																														
MAROC	3500,00	3500,00	3500,00	3500,00	342,13	342,13	342,13	342,13	342,13	342,13																														
MAURITANIE					0,83	0,83	0,83	0,83	0,83	0,83																														
MEXICO					2,21	2,21	2,21	2,21	2,21	2,21																														
NAMIBIA					301,08	301,08	301,08	301,08	301,08	301,08																														
NICARAGUA					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
NIGERIA					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
PANAMA					1717,05	1689,50	1703,31	1703,31	1703,31	1703,31																														
PHILIPPINES	286,00	286,00	286,00	286,00	1767,59	1739,31	1753,45	1753,45	1753,45	1753,45																														
S. TOME & PRINCE					389,20	389,20	389,20	389,20	389,20	389,20																														
SENEGAL ^(*)					1322,73	1301,57	1312,15	1312,15	1312,15	1312,15																														
SOUTH AFRICA					225,70	225,70	225,70	225,70	225,70	225,70																														
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES					509,37	509,37	509,37	509,37	509,37	509,37																														
SURINAME					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
THE GAMBIA					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
TR. & TORRADO					49,47	49,47	49,47	49,47	49,47	49,47																														
UK					52,65	52,65	52,65	52,65	52,65	52,65																														
URUGUAY					0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00																														
USA					844,65	844,65	844,65	844,65	844,65	844,65																														
VENEZUELA					193,73	193,73	193,73	193,73	193,73	193,73																														
TOTAL CATCH																																								
Rec. number	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	19-02	19-02	21-01	22-01	23-01																															

(1) In accordance with Rec. 16-01 para 4, those shaded in orange with the number 1575 entered in years prior to 2020 are CPCs that do not have an explicit catch limit but a threshold below which they should endeavour to maintain their catches of BET. And for those shaded in orange with the number 3500 in years prior to 2020, if catches exceed the threshold of 3500 Rec. 16-01 required establishment of a catch limit for that CPC for the following years.

(2) In accordance with Rec. 19-02 para 4, those shaded in orange in the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 columns are CPCs that do not have an explicit catch limit but a threshold below which they are encouraged to maintain catch (Rec. 19-02 para 4d: "Those CPCs with recent average catch of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.").

(3) In accordance with Rec. 19-02 para 3 the BET TAC has decreased from 62500 t in 2020 to 61500 t in 2021, which represents a decrease of 1.6%. The Secretariat has applied this decrease to all the quotas/catch limits calculated for 2020 in order to obtain proportional values for 2021.

(4) In accordance with Rec. 21-01 para 3 the BET TAC has decreased from 62500 t in 2020 to 62000 t in 2022, which represents a decrease of 0.8%. The Secretariat has applied this decrease to all the quotas/catch limits calculated for 2020 in order to obtain the proportional values for 2022.

(5) The EU, Japan and Chinese Taipei consider that such adjustments as detailed in footnotes (3) and (4) are not consistent with Rec.19-02 and 21-01, and their initial catch limits for 2021 and 2022 shall be 13,421.31 t for the EU, 13,979.84 t for Japan and 9,226.41 t for Chinese Taipei. These adjustments are subject to change depending on further action by the Commission to resolve this interpretive issue.

NOTE from the Secretariat: The 2017 adjusted quota for China, the EU, Ghana, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei was calculated at the 2017 Commission meeting due to the excess of BET catches in 2016. This entailed a proportionate reduction of the overharvest of the total TAC in the 2017 catches of these CPCs.

BRAZIL (*): The overharvest of bigeye tuna of 1,587.34 t for 2022 shall be paid back over a period of 5 years, from 2024 to 2028, in the following way: 2024: 355.34 t 2025 to 2028: 308 t.

CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2020=initial quota(4462.08)+4462.08*15%(available balance of 2018)+600 t transfer from Japan=5731.39 t.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t(=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t(=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11201.26 t=9226.41 t(initial quota)+11679*15%(carryover of 15% of 2018 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 16-01)+223 t(transfer from Korea).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 10617.31 t=9226.41(initial quota)+11679*10%(carryover of 10% of 2019 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 19-02)+223(transfer from Korea).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 10298.24 t=9152.60(initial quota)+9226.41*10%(carryover of 10% of 2020 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 21-01)+223(transfer from Korea).

COSTA RICA: Neither fishing plan nor statement of intent/requested inclusion in the quota table.

EL SALVADOR: In the years previous to 2020, El Salvador was not subject to a limit (Rec. 16-01, para 34.a), but to a fishing expectation, and therefore does not apply the limits, adjusted limits or balances. A limit is recognized for 2020 (Rec. 19-02).

EU: In 2017 the underharvest was of 168.52 t, which is less than the maximum allowed of 15% provided in Rec. 16-01. Therefore, the EU is entitled to carryover 168.52 t to 2019.

GHANA: Committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

GHANA: Adjusted limit for 2017=initial quota+15% of the initial quota of 2015 was used in addition to the quota transferred from other countries (70 t) less the payback of overharvest (337 t).

GHANA: Rec. 18-01 para 2 removes payback from Ghana.

GHANA: 2020 catch limit for Ghana has been corrected from 3716.00 t to 3968.23 t as the former one was reported by Ghana applying a payback condoned in Rec. 18-01 para 2.

JAPAN: The 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carryover from 2016 underage and excluded 1,000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: The 2018 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carryover from 2017 underage and excluded 1,000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: Adjusted catch limit for 2017 does not take into account the "payback" stipulated in para 2a of Rec. 16-01.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit=15415.88 t (it was deducted by the "payback" provision in para 2a of Rec. 16-01.)

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=17,696 t(limit)+2,654.4 t(2018 carryover(17696*15%) (para 8 of Rec. 16-01))-1,000 t (transfer to China (para 7 of Rec. 16-01))-70 t(transfer to Ghana (para 7 of Rec. 16-01)).

JAPAN: Current catch for 2018 includes 26.09 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Current catch for 2019 includes 16.60 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit is 13,079.84 t (after transferring 600 t to China and 300 t to EU).

KOREA: Since 2018, Korea has transferred 223 t of its quota to Chinese Taipei every year.

KOREA: Underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year in 2014 and 2015. Since 2016, underage up to 15% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year.

KOREA: 20 t of bigeye catch quota had been annually transferred to Ghana until 2015.

KOREA: In light of the decisions at the 21st Special Commission meeting, Korea's BET adjusted quota for 2017 is 1,708.9 t.

KOREA: 2018 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA: 2019 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA: In 2015, 5.91 t of dead discards and/or releases were not included in the catch amount in the Compliance Table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

PANAMA: 2020 catch limit for Panama has been corrected from 1707.05 to 1717.05 as the former one was an erratum.

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE: Catches are artisanal.

SENEGAL (*): Senegal agreed on a payback plan for 2020 bigeye overharvest of 1377.77 t: 137.77 t per year from 2023 to 2032 on (approved).

USA: Current catch for 2020 includes 11.5 t of dead discards.

BLUE MARLIN

	Landings limit										Current landings							Balance							Adjusted landings limit								
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TAC	1985	1985	1985	2000	1670	1670	1670	1670	1670																								
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.12	24.03	13.55	13.48	21.53	12.23	9.50	9.02	-2.79	-38.77	-6.34	-42.25	-17.87	-44.48	-21.84	-54.62	7.21	-28.77	3.66	-32.25	-12.34	-45.60	-17.30	
BELIZE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	13.10	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.10	5.82	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00									
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	159.80	159.80	159.80	159.80	159.80	79.19	63.30	37.00	19.91	13.00	2.00	3.00	5.00																
CABO VERDE						10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00						1.72																		
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.11	0.28	0.18	0.06	0.08	7.24	0.04	0.31	9.89	9.72	9.82	9.94	9.92	2.76	9.96	9.69								
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	49.71	40.31	42.19	46.40	37.24	4.03	10.41	35.40	0.63	5.27	3.44	3.87	4.10	41.77	27.49	2.50	45.63	50.27	41.34	41.77	37.90			
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	126.20	126.20	126.20	126.20	75.00	73.00	74.00	40.00	91.40	96.10	58.00	71.00	90.00	92.00	91.00	125.00	49.80	141.20	68.20	55.20	165.00	165.00	141.20	141.20	126.20			
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	51.04	79.41	41.39	27.45	18.21	23.69	10.51	8.44	-41.04	-110.45	-141.83	-159.28	-167.49	-181.18	-226.99	-282.18	-100.45	-131.83	-149.28	-157.49	-216.48	-273.74	-342.72	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	126.20	126.20	126.20	126.20	50.61	43.61	14.54	163.45	40.89	0.00	97.57	20.17	114.39	121.39	150.46	1.55	100.31	127.75	28.63	106.03	165.00	165.00	141.20	127.75	126.20			
CURACAO (*)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	48.00	2.30	20.30	0.00	1.93	6.29	0.81	10.00	-38.00	-30.30	-40.60	-30.60	-22.53	1.18	6.69	-28.00	-20.30	-30.60	-20.60	7.47	7.50	7.50	7.50
EL SALVADOR		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		0.41	0.00	3.08	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	9.59	10.00	6.92	8.57	10.00	10.00									
EU (*)	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	403.80	403.80	403.80	403.80	403.80	355.07	338.75	120.79	79.62	138.82	105.06	282.19	191.54	52.56	76.00	341.96	448.38	310.98	449.80	119.61	210.26	528.00	528.00	449.80	449.80	401.80	401.80	401.80	
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	210.30	210.30	210.30	210.30	210.30	43.66	162.02	59.70	44.40	53.10	227.80	120.80	196.10	206.34	87.98	190.30	230.60	182.20	235.30	89.50	14.20	275.00	275.00	235.30	235.30	210.30			
GRENADA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	52.61	53.82	61.67	69.17	48.95	18.30	19.13	68.30	-42.61	-86.43	-138.11	-197.27	-236.22	-244.52	-314.77	-373.07	-76.43	-128.11	-187.27	-226.22	-295.65	-304.77	-363.07	
GUATEMALA			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	-16.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		-6.00	4.00					
GUINEA EQ.			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			9.95	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00									
GUYANA				10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00				128.22	38.83	75.26	0.00	0.00												-108.22	-137.05	-255.39	-245.39	
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	328.10	328.10	328.10	328.10	328.10	412.40	308.10	352.20	336.89	285.10	289.40	371.10	303.80	16.60	120.90	54.40	92.11	82.00	367.10	-43.00	24.30	429.00	429.00	367.10	367.10	328.10		285.10	
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	29.40	29.40	29.40	29.40	29.40	26.19	25.13	24.55	12.91	20.36	11.52	10.30	12.92	8.81	9.87	17.45	29.09	16.04	36.40	19.10	16.48	42.00	42.00	36.40	36.40	29.40			
LIBERIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	126.85	10.34	0.78	1.98	1.82	1.85	6.00	1.93	-116.85	-117.19	-107.97	-99.95	-91.77	-83.62	-100.52	-117.58	-107.19	-97.97	-89.95	-81.77	-94.52	-115.65	-136.97	
MAROC	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.40	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	-72.00	-62.00	-52.00	-42.00	-32.00	-22.00	-12.00	-62.00	-52.00	-42.00	-32.00	-22.00	-12.00	-2.00	8.00
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	58.90	58.90	58.90	58.90	58.90	65.00	60.00	68.00	51.00	39.00	43.00	29.00	43.00	-9.00	1.00	3.00	22.00	26.90	58.90	29.90	15.90	71.00	73.00	65.90	58.90	58.90			
NAMIBIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	32.00	57.00	84.00	52.72	51.41	9.85	8.34	9.80	-22.00	-69.00	-143.00	-185.72	-227.13	-226.98	-282.07	-352.38	-59.00	-133.00	-175.72	-217.13	-273.73	-342.58	-430.48	
PANAMA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		23.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		-13.79	-3.79	6.21	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		-3.79	6.21					
S. TOME & PRINCE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	9.80	12.60	5.00	87.50	33.95	108.50	75.12	75.99	6.59	38.99	49.00	-33.50	-29.55	-100.15	-162.41	-241.10	54.00	54.00	4.40	8.35	-87.29	-165.11	-263.48	
SENEGAL	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	50.50	50.50	50.50	50.50	50.50	12.52	25.88	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.07	38.08	47.48	34.12	25.00	66.00	50.50	50.50	12.43	12.42	66.00	66.00	50.50	50.50				
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	9.74	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00									
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		2.01	1.98	1.18	2.07	1.65	0.18	0.41		7.99	8.02	8.82	7.93	10.00	9.82	9.59								
TR. & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	16.80	16.80	16.80	16.80	16.80	18.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	-83.60	-63.60	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	14.00	18.80	18.80	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	14.00	18.80	18.80	18.80	
UK	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	2.04	1.42	1.85	1.25	0.89	1.14	1.41	1.39	7.96	8.58	8.15	8.75	9.11	10.00	8.59	8.61								
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	82.51	97.41	61.54	60.49	42.46	42.97	71.76	85.76	27.49	-17.41	31.05	39.51	51.64	94.10	12.34	-1.66	92.59	100.00	94.10	94.10	84.10	82.44		
TOTAL LANDINGS										1576.89	1659.69	1102.26	1261.46	980.53	1085.84	1228.71	1179.21																
USA(# of hum+whm)	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	169	129	188	189	235	175	150	136	81	121	62	61	15	75	100	114	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	
Rec number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05																	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05

BELIZE: Had an overharvest of 3.10 t in 2016 which is being adjusted in 2018. As such the adjusted balance for 2018 will be limit minus overharvest which will equal 6.9 t.

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 19-05 para 9. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2018=initial limit(45)+available balance of 2016(0.629 t)=45.629 t.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2019=initial limit(45)+available balance of 2017(not exceeding 20% of 45)=50.27 t.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2020=initial limit(37.90)+available balance of 2018(not exceeding 20% of 37.90)=41.34 t.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 165 t(=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 165 t(=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 141.2 t=126.2(initial landing limit in 2020)+150*10%(2018 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 141.2 t=126.2(initial landing limit in 2021)+150*10%(2019 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 126.2 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

CURAÇAO: BUM catches of the Curaçao fleet fall under the conditions of para 2 of the Rec. 15-05 by ICCAT to further strengthen the plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin stocks which states that: "the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established".

CURAÇAO (*): Curaçao agreed on a payback plan for blue marlin of 2.5 t per year from 2022 on. First year 2.53 t (approved).

EU: In 2015, the quota was exceeded by 130.51 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years 2017 and 2018, which corresponds to 65.25 t per year.

EU (**): In 2023, the EU initiated a process of revising the BUM/WHM Task 1 NC data due to stocks miscoding from 2020 to 2022. Any payback derived from this process will be ascertained in 2025, after the EU receives the SCRS advice about the soundness of methodology adopted to revise data.

GHANA: Catch is from artisanal gillnet fisheries.

GUYANA: The data stated as white marlin are actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

JAPAN: The 2018 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carryover from 2016 underage (Rec. 15-05).

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit=390 t(limit)+16.6 t (2016 carryover (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=390 t(limit)+39 t (2017 carryover (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit=328.1 t(limit)+39 t(2018 carryover (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit=328.1 t(limit)+39 t(2019 carryover (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA: Underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

KOREA: In 2015, 1.47 t of dead discards were not included in the catch amount in the Compliance Table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

NAMIBIA: Namibia reviewed its recorded catches and noted that, prior to the period in question, catches for targeted species were low. Thus, Namibia increased its effort to improve catch performance which could have resulted in increased blue marlin catches. Further scrutiny of the catches leads to the conclusion that the increase in blue marlin catches reporting may also have resulted from misidentification. We suspect that the BUM catches should be black marlin. Namibia thus identified the need for further training in species identification of fishermen and observers. Namibia believes that such training will help to address this deficiency and may approach ICCAT for assistance in this regard, as in the past.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Adjusted limit for 2020=IQ2020+Balance 2019+2 t EU transfer provided by Rec. 19-05.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2022 include 100 BUM, 38 WHM, and 12 RSP.

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

YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TAC	355	355	355	400	355	355	355	355	355																								
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.23	17.40	17.50	11.56	14.36	10.00	9.70	7.38	-2.23	-5.40	-9.73	-6.96	-14.09	-6.96	-17.31	-6.08	7.77	4.60	0.27	3.04	-7.61	1.30	-11.64	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.93	46.58	62.00	76.31	46.00	0.00	0.00	17.00																
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.03	2.30	1.64	1.49	1.37	4.97	1.99	2.06	8.97	7.70	10.36	8.51	8.63	5.03	8.01	7.94	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00			
CHINA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	2.53	3.23	2.88	1.81	1.57	2.13	1.50	11.74	9.48	8.77	9.12	10.19	10.43	7.87	8.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00			
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	10.00	5.00	6.00	2.00	5.40	5.20	2.00	1.30	45.00	50.00	49.00	53.00	49.60	49.80	48.00	48.70	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	50.00			
COSTA RICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00																								
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.97	1.12	0.00	0.25	0.29	0.00	1.33	0.00	9.03	8.88	10.00	11.75	11.71	12.00	8.67	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00			
CURACAO	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			1.20	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
EL SALVADOR	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
EU (*)	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	101.54	14.67	0.17	0.70	3.07	14.32	1.10	9.23	-77.64	9.23	27.43	26.90	29.53	40.68	48.90	40.77	27.60	27.60	32.60	55.00	50.00			
GHANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.10									1.90				2.00	2.00								
GRENADA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	15.26	8.99	10.68	18.69	13.52	1.35	4.71	12.66	-13.26	-20.25	-28.93	-45.62	-57.14	-56.49	-73.32	-83.97	-18.25	-26.93	-43.62	-55.14	-68.61	-71.32	-81.97	
GUATEMALA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	48.42	57.20	67.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-100.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-155.26	
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12.60	9.20	14.40	10.85	7.90	6.10	6.40	6.40	29.40	32.80	27.60	31.15	34.10	35.90	28.60	28.60	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	35.00			
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	20.00	20.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	20.00			
LIBERIA		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			1.05	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.95	0.02	2.00	2.00	2.00								
MAROC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.60	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	20.00	12.00	15.89	9.00	10.00	12.00	8.00	8.00	4.00	13.00	13.11	21.00	20.00	18.00	17.00	17.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00			
PANAMA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
S. TOME & PRINCE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	13.00	1.13	9.56	10.50	20.41	26.72	27.10	9.00	11.00	22.88	14.44	13.50	-0.41	-7.13	-16.02	24.00	24.00	24.00		19.59	11.08	-0.02	
SENEGAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.78	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00								
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES			2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	5.56	7.50	6.70	5.10	9.00	1.60	1.50	4.40	-3.56	-9.06	-13.76	-16.86	-23.86	-23.46	-28.83	-38.43	-7.06	-11.76	-14.86	-21.86	-27.33	-34.03	-46.04	
TR. & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.56	10.44	10.44	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.20	10.44			
UK	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.30	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.19	0.10	0.22	1.75	1.70	1.81	1.79	1.71	1.81	1.90	1.78								
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	157.98	150.09	67.89	51.43	35.40	31.77	43.22	49.13	-107.98	-208.07	-225.96	-227.39	-212.79	-194.56	-236.42	-294.65	-158.07	-175.96	-177.39	-162.79	-193.20	-245.52	-318.32	
TOTAL LANDINGS										489.93	348.94	276.98	202.01	158.91	109.84	108.90	146.37																
USA (# of hum+whm)	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	169	129	188	189	235	175	150	136	81	121	62	61	15	75	100	114	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05																		15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 19-05 para 9. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CANADA: All 2019-2022 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2018=initial quota(10)+available balance of 2016(10*20%)=12 t.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2019=initial quota(10)+10*20%=12 t.

CHINA: Adjusted limit for 2020=initial quota(10)+10*20%=12 t.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 55 t(=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 10% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 55 t(=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 10% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 55 t=50(initial landing limit in 2020)+50*10%(2018 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 55 t=50(initial landing limit in 2021)+50*10%(2019 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 50 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

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).

EU: In 2014 the quota was exceeded by 52.21 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years in 2016 and 2017, which corresponds to 26.10 t per year.

EU: In 2015 the quota was exceeded by 67.19 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 3 years in 2018, 2019, 2020, which corresponds to 22.4 t per year.

EU (**): In 2023, the EU initiated a process of revising the BUM/WHM Task 1 NC data due to stocks miscoding from 2020 to 2022. Any payback derived from this process will be ascertained in 2024, after the EU receives SCRS advice about the soundness of methodology adopted to revise data.

GUYANA: The data stated as white marlin are actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit=35 t(limit)+7 t(2016 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit=35 t(limit)+7 t(2017 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit=35 t(limit)+7 t(2018 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

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JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit=35 t(limit)+7 t(2019 carryover (35*20%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA: Underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 RSP.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2022 include 100 BUM, 38 WHM, and 12 RSP.

NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK

	Initial catch limits ⁽¹⁾					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TAC	39102	39102	39102	39102	30000														
BARBADOS						2.43	2.44	3.30	2.28										
BELIZE						297.81	349.43	311.09	366.21										
CABO VERDE									0.23										
CANADA						193.31	173.18	365.31	161.04										
CHINA						65.44	2.21	13.02	9.43										
CHINESE TAIPEI						73.60	53.37	24.98	74.26										
COSTA RICA						0.12	0.23	0.09	0.95										
CÔTE D'IVOIRE									16.44										
EU	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	24797.00	30404.08	17347.38	17288.45	18960.79	2173.92	15230.62	15256.98	13584.63		32545.42	32545.42	32545.42	24449.00	
FRANCE (SP&M)								153.27											
JAPAN	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	3055.00	1896.60	1798.00	2237.30	2254.50	2113.40	4010.00	1772.70	1755.50					3012.00	3012.00
KOREA						47.63	19.86	0.00	0.00										
LIBERIA						3.30	7.56	0.00	1.90										
MAROC	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1253.00	1497.80	1636.19	1531.96	1644.00	146.20	1644.00	112.04	0.00					1644.00	
MEXICO						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
PANAMA						162.48	83.85	111.05	60.91										
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES						1.97													
SURINAME						0.00	0.00	0.00	7.41										
TR. & TOBAGO						0.11	0.21	1.45	0.33										
UK	n.a.	32.58	32.58	32.58	25.00	0.01	4.22	5.18	3.88	n.a.	32.58	27.40	28.70	n.a.					
USA						32.17	34.45	37.52	25.99										
VENEZUELA						58.74	10.97	8.94	15.49										
TOTAL LANDINGS						34737.59	21523.54	22092.90	23606.03										
Rec. number	19-07	19-07	21-10	21-10	23-10									19-07	19-07	21-10	21-10	23-10	23-10

(1) In accordance with Rec. 19-07 and Rec. 23-10 para 3, those shaded in orange are CPCs that do not have an explicit catch limit but shall endeavour to maintain their catches below the level of their highest annual catches over the last ten years.

EU: The EU adjusted catch limit for BSH takes into account the transfer of 0.10% of its initial catch limit to the United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See Circular #4088/21 (32.58 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.10% of BSHN EU+UK TAC.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SHORTFIN MAKO

	<i>Retention allowance</i>		<i>Current catches</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>Adjusted Retention allowance</i>	
<i>YEAR</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
<i>Total Retention Allowance</i>	1295	1295				
ANGOLA	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00		
BELIZE	15.00	15.00	0.00	15.00		
BRAZIL	208.00	208.00	121.00	87.00		
CHINA	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	61.00	61.00	2.00	59.00		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	18.00	18.00	0.00	18.00		
CURACAO	0.00	0.00				
EL SALVADOR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
EU	503.00	503.00	0.00	503.00		
GUATEMALA	0.00	0.00				
JAPAN	62.00	62.00	4.40	57.60		
KOREA	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00		
NAMIBIA	256.00	256.00	522.00	-266.00		-10.00
PANAMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
SENEGAL	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.00		
SOUTH AFRICA	154.00	154.00	95.99	58.01		
UK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
URUGUAY	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00		
TOTAL CATCH			745.39			
<i>Rec. number</i>	22-11	22-11			22-11	22-11

Compliance with size limits in 2023

Species	SWO			BFT						
Area	AT.N	AT.S	Med	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Med	AT.E	Med	AT.W
Recommendation Number	17-02 § 9-10	17-03 § 6-7	16-05 § 15-17	22-08 § 34	22-08 § 34	22-08 § 34	22-08 § 34	22-08 § 33, 36	22-08 § 33, 36	22-10 § 7-5
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROIL, >17 m(1)	BB <17 m(2)	Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes(3)(4)	Coastal artisanal fisheries(5)	All other gears	All other gears	All gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW	0 kg	6.4 kg	0 kg	0 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Alt-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: (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B=0% 15kg/119cm	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 1	5%	0%	100 t(2)	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	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							0			
Algeria			3%				0%			
Angola		(****)								
Barbados	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belize	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Bolivia										
Brazil	(*)									
Cabo verde										
Canada	2.30%									0
China	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Chinese Taipei	0.14%(≤125cm); 0%(≤119cm)	0.24%(≤125cm); 0%(≤119cm)	na							
Costa Rica	(**)									
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0								
Curaçao										
Egypt			0				0		0	
El Salvador										
EU raw data under min. size										
EU	A: 2.55%	A: 0%	0.76%	0%	7.00%	0% below (3)	39.7% (52,582 t of consumptions)	0%	0.72%	0%
France (SPM)	(***)									
Gabon										
Ghana		3%								
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinea Equatorial										
Guinea Bissau										
Guinea Bissau/Neigine										
Guyana										
Honduras										
Iceland								0%		
Japan	A: 2.08%	A: 0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	0%
Korea	0	0						0		
Liberia	A: 61.54%									
Libya							4%			
Moroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritania										
Mexico	A: 12.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0
Namibia	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Senegal	2.90%	0.00%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa		0%								
St Vincent & Grenadines										
Seriname										
Syria								0	0	
Trinidad & Tobago	B: 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Tunisie							0			
Turkiye	n.a.	n.a.	0.10%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0%	n.a.
UK	0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	2%	Not applicable	0%
Uruguay										
USA	0%									1.20%
Venezuela	(****)									

In the event that harvest of any ICCAT stock exceeds specified minimum size tolerance adopted by the Commission, explain to the Compliance Committee:

- The magnitude of the overharvest,
- Domestic measures implemented to avoid further overharvest,
- Monitoring of compliance with domestic measures, and
- Any other actions to be taken to prevent further overharvest.

(1) CPCs may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §2).

(2) French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay may catch a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length (to be reported in t).

(3) Croatia may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% by weight of the quantities caught by its vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

(4) CPCs may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §3).

(5) CPCs may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean (Rec. 21-08, Annex I, §3).

(*) It was not possible to estimate the percentage of catches of SWO < 125 cm LJFL for the year 2023 due to the unavailability of size data for the species. As happened last year, the sample size collected covers only a small area of the vast range of the Brazilian SWO fisheries.

(**) The vessels of the Costa Rican fleet operating in the Atlantic do not have observers on board, so there is no information on the sizes of northern swordfish or western bluefin tuna. There are no records of landings of western bluefin tuna in the Atlantic.

(***) No catches in 2023.

(****) The Venezuelan tuna fleet targets tropical tunas, so SWO catches are incidental and the specimens are large (> 125 LJFL). Due to the inactivity of the National Observer Programme and the difficulties in conducting longline sampling, there are no reports of landings < 125 LJFL.

(*****) We do not have at moment information about the minimum size.

ALBANIA

Compliance Summary Tables¹

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res.)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response/explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res.)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response/explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting, request action plan due to recurring late vessel submission.				Letter on late reporting, implementation of Rec. 16-14.
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data		No ST09 form.				No ST09 form.		
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	Albania has Observer program data on discards, bycatch or incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Albanian fleet of trawlers and small pelagic purse seiners in the Adriatic Sea.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls		Listing of one BFT-E other vessel brought forward (vessel was listed 15 days in advance but date was brought forward) 2) Late authorisation of one BFT other vessel.	1) Administrative oversight; 2) Short fishing season resulted in towing vessels arriving earlier than anticipated to fishing grounds.					
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-07	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
					Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

¹ Compliance Summary Tables (COC_308/2024) is a working document that includes information of potential relevance to the development of COC recommendations but is wholly without prejudice to the potential compliance status of individual CPCs.

ALGERIA

2023					2024				
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec. / Res.)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec. / Res.)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024	
Category A				Letter on reporting, request action plan due to recurring late or missing reports. Follow-up on issues for which there was a partial response in last year's Chair letter.				Letter on reporting, implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).	
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report									
Statistical data		No Task 2 data; no ST09 form.							
Other reports	Rec. 16-05	SWO-MED fishing plan received slightly late.							
	Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet received late.							
Category C									
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-13/23-21	BCD Annual Report not received.			
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	No changes since last transmission.		
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls					Rec. 21-14	Two vessels over 20m without IMO Number.			
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y		
		ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305; COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter.	JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4. ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)									

ANGOLA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Identification due to recurring significant late and missing reports, request action plan due to recurring late or missing reports, harvest of ICCAT species while under prohibition on retention of ICCAT species in effect under Rec. 11-15, no response to Chair letter. Follow up on issues raised in last year's Chair letter (no response).				Lift identification in light of improvements in reporting, investigations conducted, and other information provided at Annual Meeting. Letter on continued reporting issues, to request additional information regarding issues raised in COC-312, and to request updates to action plan to address outstanding issues. Remind of potential for future re-identification and other actions under Rec. 06-13 if insufficient demonstration of continued progress.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late with no size sheet; Difference between compliance tables and Task 1 (ALB-S). Unreported billfish catches remain unresolved.						
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Some responses in IOMS incomplete/incorrect.				Annual Report IOMS Section 2 incomplete.		
Statistical data	Rec. 11-15	Fishing activity took place while under prohibition. No Task 2 data. No ST09.				No ST09 form.		
Other reports	Rec. 18-05 / 18-06	No check sheets received.						
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Periodical reports for tropical species in 2023 submitted late.		
					Rec. 11-09	No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.		
	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	No data regarding this information, however, arrangements are being made so that next year we will have these data.	
Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transhipment.			Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transhipment.		
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-10	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		No reply to COC Chair letter. Prohibition lifted as T1 received. COC-312 (Shark Trust and EU).			Response to Chair Letter (2023 and 2022). Action plan submitted.	See COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances		Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

BARBADOS

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on lack of scientific observer program and to request additional information on actions planned for blue marlin and white marlin. Request action plan. Notify application of 125% payback (non-discretionary per Rec. 19-05).				Letter on lack of scientific observer program (16-14), late reporting, no information on implementation of turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12) and to request additional information on actions planned for blue marlin and white marlin. Request action plan. Remind of application of 125% payback (non-discretionary per Rec. 19-05).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Difference between Task 1 and Compliance table BSH. Overharvest of BUM and WHM.	Due to an oversight which will be rectified, overharvest does not take into account 125% penalty.		Rec. 18-07 / Rec. 19-05	Recurrent overharvest of BUM (2023: -54.62 t, Catches below its landing limit in 2022 and 2023) and WHM (2023: -6.08 t, catches below its landing limit since 2021) due to negative balance from previous years.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data		No ST09 received.	Domestic Observer programme not yet implemented but foreseen in suite of fisheries management regulations.					
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
					Rec. 22-01	Periodical reports received late.		
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Implementation of scientific observer programme unclear. Observer coverage <5%.	Barbados has not yet implemented an observer program. Nevertheless, new Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act and accompanying Regulations mandates that the masters of fishing vessels participate in observer programs including electronic monitoring as stipulated by the Chief Fisheries Officer. As referenced in the Annual Report, Barbados is at the preliminary stages of introducing an EMS programme via Shellcatch and details will be provided in a timely manner to ICCAT in the context of validation.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
Other		COC-312 (Shark Trust).	All sharks have fins naturally attached; export and re-export controls are being reinforced.		Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

BELIZE

	2023				2024			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2024</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2024</i>
Category A				<i>Letter on late reporting and to further inquire about implementation of Rec. 18-06 (shortfin mako), Rec. 19-05 (billfish) and Rec. 16-14 (scientific observers), and to seek a better understanding about whether and how Belize applies ICCAT rules in a legally binding manner for fisheries in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction.</i>				<i>Letter on implementation of Rec. 16-14 (scientific observers).</i>
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			Revised compliance tables submitted.					
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
Category B								
<i>Annual Report</i>		Sections 4 and 5 of Annual Report submitted late (summary, Part 1 and IOMs tables were completed).						
<i>Statistical data</i>						No ST09 form.		
<i>Other reports</i>								
	Rec. 18-06	Indicates no targeting of mako but no discards reported.						
Category C								
<i>MCS- species related</i>								
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	Implementation of scientific observer programme and of Rec. 19-05 (billfish) unclear.	Applicable to longline and purse seine fleet.		Rec. 16-14	Implementation of scientific observer programme unclear.		
<i>Port Controls</i>								
<i>Vessel Controls</i>								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		See COC-312 (EU and Shark Trust) + response to EU allegation.			No response to the Chair letter.	See COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
<i>Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)</i>								

BRAZIL

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
				Letter on continued overharvest of bigeye, while noting positively actions reported by Brazil and stated intention to payback.				Letter on continued overharvest of bigeye, late reporting, and implementation of turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-10) and scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 22-01	Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of BET.	Payback plan presented to Panel 1.	Follow up to last year's letter to request additional information regarding efforts related to improved port monitoring and observer coverage.	Rec. 18-07 / 22-01	Compliance tables received late. Recurrent overharvest of BET (2023: -922.03 t) in spite of a payback plan approved in 2023.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report					Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
Statistical data						No ST09 form.		
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	Data unavailable at this time.	
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
Other		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CABO VERDE

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Identification due to recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers, in-port transshipment, FAD management plan, vessels without IMO numbers, recommendation to consider request for further capacity building. Response template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter, missing information requested in Chair letter not provided. Request action plan. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT				Maintain identification due to recurring reporting issues (missing, incomplete, or late), implementation of requirements on domestic scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), seabird mitigation (Rec. 07-07 & Rec. 11-07), vessels without IMO numbers (Rec. 21-14), recommendation to consider request for further capacity building. Request updated action plan. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures or other actions under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.			Rec. 18-07	No compliance tables received. Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.		Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient progress demonstrated at future meetings.
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report Word and IOMS Part 1 received late, Part 2, late and incomplete.		
Statistical data		No ST09.						
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	No BIL check sheet received.		
	Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.		Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).	Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.						
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
	Rec. 22-01	No FAD management plan.			Rec. 11-09	No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.		
					Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No domestic observer programme. Observer coverage <5% (PS)	No Domestic Observer Program data in place (no active fishing on ICCAT species).	
	Rec. 21-14	Four vessels over 20m without IMO Number (reported in July with IMO number pending receipt).						
Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transshipment.						
Vessel Controls					Rec. 21-14	Four vessels over 20m without IMO Number. Not submitted since last year.		
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-11-01	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
	COC-312 (Shark Trust and EU).	Fished for ICCAT species without a licence.			Response to the Chair letter received late	See COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CANADA

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on late reporting, while noting written response and efforts to address, and on fulfilment of 5% minimum coverage requirement of Rec. 16-14.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and compliance tables for SWO-N, BFT-W, BET, WHM.	SWO-N = Manual data entry error; BFT-W - difference between fishing and calendar year; BET not all dead discards included; WHM not all dead discards included; BUM not all dead discards included.		Rec. 18-07	Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	Canada has identified the following causes of the differences between Task 1 and CP13 data: - BFT: data reporting parameters for the compliance table are based on the operational fishing year of June to June, whereas the Task 1 data collection is based on the calendar year of January to December. The overall issue is a matter of methodology of data collection. - WHM: the first compliance tables submitted by Canada on August 13th contained errors and did not align with Task 1 data, but a revised version submitted to the Secretariat on August 20th (attached) features revised data for WHM which aligns with the Task 1 data.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS - species related					Rec. 18-07	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late.	Canada submitted its report late given a change in staff in our statistics department which made the process longer and a statutory holiday that took place over the deadline. We have corrected our internal process to prevent recurrence.	
					Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.	Due to an oversight, in its initial annual reporting Canada did not report on its implementation of sea turtle measures as outlined in Rec. 22-12. Canada submitted the required information to the Secretariat on 7 November 2024. See also COC-308 Annex 2.	
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5% (LL 3.00% Ntrip).	Submitted - all catch, discards, and observer data provided as an aggregate, consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements in Task 1 and Task 2 data (13 September 2024).	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CHINA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on recurring retroactive vessel listing, request action plan on this issue.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS - species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls	Rec. 22-08	Late reporting of BFT fishing vessel (i.e. not 15 days in advance).	Administrative difficulty arising from rotation of staff.					
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-10	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (EJF, Shark Trust and EU).	Written responses provided (see COC-312). Possible fraudulent use of documentation. More information needed from EU.		Response to Chair Letter.	ROP Trans - PNCs and responses contained in COC-305. COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

COSTA RICA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter regarding continued overharvest of SWO-N and BUM, reporting, additional information on shortfin mako (Rec. 21-09) and national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) implementation. Request action plan on all these matters. Letter to also request specific regulatory information on how Costa Rica implements the requirement to prohibit silky sharks from entering into international trade as a condition for exercising the developing State exemption in para 4 of Rec. 11-08. Note 125% payback rules for BUM for overharvest two consecutive years. Response letter template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter. Follow up on any outstanding deficiencies addressed in last year's COC Chair letter.				Letter regarding continued overharvest of SWO-N and BUM, national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) implementation, while recognizing that Costa Rica only recently became a Party to ICCAT and welcoming further information on implementation of ICCAT requirements in future reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 21-02 / 19-05	Continued overharvest of SWO-N and BUM.			Rec. 22-03 and 19-05	Recurrent overharvest of SWO-N (no quota, 2023: - 299.52 t) and BUM (2023: - 282.18 t, catches below its landing limit in 2023) due to negative balance from previous years.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports	Rec. 21-09	Information on northern shortfin mako measures received late.						
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but not corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Additional information on progress of implementation of scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	Costa Rica does not catch South Atlantic swordfish.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-09	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust) + response.			Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CÔTE D’IVOIRE

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, responses in Shark Check Sheet in particular regarding implementation of Rec. 10-08 (hammerhead shark), request action plan on latter due to recurring issue.				Letter on reporting issues (incomplete or missing), implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), no response to COC Chair letter following 2023 meeting request action plan on latter due to recurring issue. Inform of potential for application of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 if insufficient demonstrated progress, in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late, no size sheet. Difference between Task 1 and compliance tables for ALB and BUM.			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late and incomplete (IOMS sections missing).				Annual Report Word, received late. IOMS Sections 1 & 2 not received.		
Statistical data		No ST01 (fleet characteristics) No ST09 (observer data).						
Other reports	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.			Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 11-09	No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 unclear.			Rec. 16-14	Implementation of scientific observer programme unclear. Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls					Rec. 21-15	Information on in-port transhipment received late.		
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CURAÇAO

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on blue marlin overharvest, noting payback intention, and to request information on implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Also note request for training of onboard observers in 2022 letter of response.				Letter on reporting and implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16 14).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 19-05	Overharvest of BUM. 125% penalty has not been applied to overharvest.						
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Some responses in IOMS incomplete / incorrect.	Revised version received.			Annual report Word and IOMS received late.		
Statistical data		ST01 (fleet characteristics) received late.						
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-01	Periodical reports received late.	In 2023 there has been a significant reduction in the purse seine fleet and, therefore, in the catch of tropical tunas. Which, together with issues related to an internal administrative restructuring, has made it impossible for the required quarterly shipments to be made. The latter has already been resolved and periodic shipments will be duly made. In 2025 a recuperation of the fishing fleet is foreseen. This entails a duly reporting of the improved catches will be complied with according to Rec. 22-01.	
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed on implementation of Rec. 16-14.						
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-09	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

EGYPT

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)		Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
				No action necessary.				Letter on late reporting,
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07 / 22-05 / 16-05	Compliance tables received late (17/09) / Overharvest of ALB-MD (2023: -13.73 t) and SWO-MD [no quota, 2023 catches (75 t) > reserve (39.35 t)].	At the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT (Vale do Lobo, Portugal, 13-21 November 2022), Egypt ALB-MD quota was 177.27 t but we were asked to help to specify a quota for Türkiye, then we accept to sacrifice by decreasing our quota to 150.27 t although we have abundance of ALB-MD in our territorial water. In fishing season 2023, we tried to control the catch by decreasing number of authorized vessels but the CPUE was high and the authorized vessels catches were more than their allocated quota. It was referred in the document for SWO-MD [no quota, 2023 catches (75 t) > reserve (39.35 t)] and this is to clarify this issue. Egypt clarified its position throughout the past years with some remarks set in Annex showing its right to have a fair catch limit, its commitment to recommendations and to conserve the stock, submission of fishing plan for the fishing season 2023 with no comments received even at the Regular meeting in Egypt in 2023and total catch for 2021-2023 less than TAC reflecting good opportunity to have a catch limit. See also COC-308 Annex 5. Updated CP13 form submitted.	Implementation of scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), and overharvest, while noting actions related to quota taken in relevant Panel.
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Some responses in IOMS incomplete / incorrect.	Revised version received 7 November 2023.					
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.	Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries will implement as soon as possible the scientific program for specialists to carry out the tasks of the scientific observer.	
MCS Species specific								
Port Controls	Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transshipment.	Egypt does not carry out any in-port transshipment.					
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Other								
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

EL SALVADOR

	2023					2024		
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).						
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on scientific observer program and to request additional data about access agreements, including whether the foreign vessels fishing in its waters mentioned in its response to last year's Chair letter have formal access agreements in place, and whether catches by these vessels and other required information are being reported in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements (Rec. 14-07).				Letter on late reporting, scientific observer program implementation (Rec. 16-14), and to reiterate 2023 COC request additional data about access agreements, including whether the foreign vessels fishing in its waters mentioned in its response to last year's Chair letter have formal access agreements in place, and whether catches by these vessels and other required information are being reported in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements (Rec. 14-07).
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received incomplete.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report IOMS Section 1 received late, Word and IOMS Section 2 not received.		
Statistical data		No ST01 (fleet characteristics) or ST09 (observer data) received.				No ST01 (fleet characteristics) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports								
					Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.						
MCS General					Rec. 11-09	No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.		
					Rec. 16-14	No domestic observer programme in place. Observer coverage <5%		
Port Controls					Rec. 18-09	No information on in-port transhipment.		
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair's letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

EUROPEAN UNION

2023				2024				
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting, while positively noting improvements, and to note thanks for updates on Tarantelo investigation and request updates at future meetings (WHM/BUM reporting issue to be included via footnote in compliance table COC-304/2023, noting subject to updates based on further analysis).				Letter on reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 11-11	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	There are two major sets of data to produce catch data in relation to the EU fishing activity: 1.Compliance data: Data resulting from the application of EU and/or international fisheries control rules, i.e. declaration data from logbooks, landing declarations, and sales notes. These data are post-validated through cross-checks by EU Member States authorities, also with additional data such as VMS, fishing authorisations, etc. In the EU control system, compliance data are official data used for quota consumption purposes. 2.Task 1 data: Catch estimations combining sampling data from the application of scientific protocols as well as logbook data. The EU considers that – given that the second category consists of estimations, raw logbook data is an approximation, whereas landings and sales notes data should reflect the precise amounts, and that the compliance data is the official data for quota consumption purposes in the EU - the data to be considered for the application table are the compliance data.		Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	There are two major sets of data to produce catch data in relation to the EU fishing activity: 1.Compliance data: Data resulting from the application of EU and/or international fisheries control rules, i.e. declaration data from logbooks, landing declarations, and sales notes. These data are post-validated through cross-checks by EU Member States authorities, also with additional data such as VMS, fishing authorisations, etc. In the EU control system, compliance data are official data used for quota consumption purposes. 2.Task 1 data: Catch estimations combining sampling data from the application of scientific protocols as well as logbook data. The EU considers that – given that the second category consists of estimations, raw logbook data is an approximation, whereas landings and sales notes data should reflect the precise amounts, and that the compliance data is the official data for quota consumption purposes in the EU - the data to be considered for the application table are the compliance data.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports	Rec. 16-05	Report on implementation of SWO-MD closure received late.						
	Rec. 22-16	Report on eBCD derogation received late.						
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-13 / 23-21	Late reporting of BCD Annual Report for some MS.	The delayed reporting from some Member States was due to some misunderstanding of the rules. The EU has immediately liaised with the administration to clarify the rules and devised a plan to ensure that the situation will not be repeated in the future.	
					Rec. 11-09	Late submission of CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.	CP 44 was submitted later, on 8 November. The EU fully implements the Rec. 11-09, however the report CP44-Birdmit, concerns the Atlantic area south of 25 degrees South latitude, where there are few EU fishing operations. The reporting is voluntary for the Mediterranean Sea.	
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%. (EU-Portugal 2018 LL 1.00% Nset EU-Cyprus 2006 LL 1.00% Nset EU-Greece NA LL 4.00% Ntrip EU-Malta 2008 LL 0.12% Nday)	This is an obligation for the CPC, which is the EU, not each individual Member State. The possible excess in the coverage of some MSs could compensate for the deficiency in other MSs and we note that some Member States have not been included in the table. In addition, the units used to calculate coverage are different in each case (n trips, n days, n sets), which does not allow a precise value to be calculated. We therefore ask that this note be withdrawn until valid figures are available.	
Port Controls					Rec. 18-09	Two Port Inspection Reports with possible infringements from 2023 received late.		
Vessel Controls								
					Rec. 22-08	Late reporting of BFT fishing vessels, i.e., not 15 days in advance.	A number of vessels of EU-FRA (252) and EU-PRT (45) were indeed authorised as BFT catching vessels without observing the 15 days advance notice (sent to the Secretariat on 23.01, 05.03, 12.03 and 18.03). The reporting was between 5 days (FRA) and 15 to 18 days (PRT) late. There was no specific reason given by FRA, so we suppose human error, but PRT stated an IT error that led to failed e-mail transmission to the EU as reason for the late reporting. However, as these vessels had either been authorised already by the Flag State and were fishing in that period (PRT) or there was no operational alternative (FRA), the Member States confirmed the need to record these authorisation with ICCAT for the indicated periods, which resulted in this non-compliance. The ICCAT Secretariat has been duly informed on the technical ordeal experienced by Portugal, which is also reported in COC-303, prepared by the ICCAT Secretariat. We stress the importance of timely reporting and the respect of the 15-days rule with the concerned EU Member States but individual human errors or IT errors / failed e-mail transmission cannot be completely excluded.	
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.	All addressed in COC-305.		Response to Chair Letter.	ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.		
		COC-312 (Shark Trust and EJP) + responses.				JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

FRANCE (ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON)

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme in place.			Rec. 16-14	No domestic observer programme in place.	France (SPM) currently has no fisheries and no fishing activity in 2023. Thus, requirement S:GEN11 relating to paragraphs 10d/10e of Rec. 16-14 is therefore not applicable to France (SPM).	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).						
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GABON

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on late or missing report and potential application of prohibition on retention under Rec. 11-15 if missing statistical data not received.				Letter on late reporting, implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables / zero catches confirmation received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.				Annual Report Word and IOMS received late.		
Statistical data								
Other reports	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.			Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.						
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	No domestic observer programme in place. Observer coverage <5%.	No report.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-31	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to the Chair letter received late.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

THE GAMBIA

	2023				2024			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2024</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2024</i>
Category A				<i>Letter on significant recurring reporting issues, request action plan, encourage seeking technical assistance as needed from Secretariat. Reiterate requests in last year's 2022 COC Chair letter, including to seek further response allegations of IUU fishing in COC-312/2023.</i>				<i>Identification for significant recurring reporting issues (no Annual Report, other reports missing or late), no response to COC Chair letter (also recurring issue), request action plan, encourage seeking technical assistance as needed from Secretariat. Reiterate requests in 2022 and 2023 COC Chair letter, including to seek further response to allegations in COC-312/2023 and COC-312/2024.</i>
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07	No Compliance tables received.			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.		
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
Category B								
<i>Annual Report</i>		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).				No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS.		
<i>Statistical data</i>		Statistical data received late.	No national fleet, only access agreement, catches not landed in The Gambia. Transhipments do not involve ICCAT species.			ST02 (Nominal catches) received late. No ST01 (fleet characteristics), ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
<i>Other reports</i>					Rec. 18-05	No BIL check sheet received.		
	Rec. 18-05 / 18-06	No check sheets received.			Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
Category C								
<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.						
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No implementation of observer programme.	No national fleet.					
<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transhipment.						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. See COC-312 (Shark Trust, EU).			No response to the Chair letter.	COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
<i>Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)</i>								

GHANA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter requesting additional information on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), access agreements, and implementation of ICCAT Recommendations on hammerhead, silky shark and oceanic whitetip. Template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter.				Letter on late reporting, implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), and to seek additional information needed on implementation of requirements regarding the retention of hammerhead and silky sharks (Rec. 10-08 and Rec. 11-08).
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual report IOMS Section 2 received late.		
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related						Additional information needed on implementation of requirements regarding the retention of hammerhead and silky sharks (Rec. 10-08 and Rec. 11-08)		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	More information on implementation of scientific observer programme needed.			Rec. 16-14	More information on implementation of scientific observer programme needed.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-09	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
Other		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair's Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GRENADA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Maintain identification for significant recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data, blue marlin overharvest, and catches of SWO-N without quota. No response to last year's Chair letter. Request action plan on these matters and inform of potential future application of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if meaningful actions not demonstrated in near future. Follow up on matters raised in last year's Chair letter.				Maintain identification for significant recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report and other missing or late reports, marlin overharvest, and catches of SWO-N without quota. No response to last year's Chair letter (also a recurring issue). Recommend that the Commission consider actions at its 2025 Annual Meeting pursuant to paragraph 6 of Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 19-05 / 21-02	No Compliance tables received, but overharvest of BUM in 2020 and previous years, as well as catches of SWO-N without quota.			Rec. 18-07 / 19-05 / 22-03	No Compliance tables received. Recurrent overharvest according to T1 (NO CP13 submission ever) of SWO-N (no quota, 2023: -165.23 t), BUM (2023: -373.07 t) and WHM (2023: -83.97 t) Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).				No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS.		
Statistical data		No statistical data received.						
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	No BIL check sheet received.		
	Rec. 18-05 / 18-06	No check sheet received.			Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Other		No reply to COC Chair letter / COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GUATEMALA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on late reporting and to request information on implementation of national scientific observer program.				Letter on late reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.	CP-13 based on estimates of fishing logbooks.		Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report, IOMS and Word sections, received late.		
Statistical data								
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
	Rec. 22-01 / 23-01	Monthly / quarterly reports received late.			Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	More information on scientific observer programmes required.						
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		Response to COC Chair letter received late. COC-312 (Shark Trust).	All sharks must be landed with fins attached unless it can be discarded. Required by domestic legislation therefore 5% limit does not apply.		Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GUINEA-BISSAU

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Maintain identification under Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures (Rec. 06-13) due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for seven years in a row; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations. No reply to 2022 COC letter, reiterate issues raised. Request action plan to address reporting and other deficiencies. Encourage seeking capacity building and technical assistance via Secretariat. Inform of potential for application of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 if insufficient demonstrated progress, in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18).				Maintain identification under Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures (Rec. 6-13) due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for eight years in a row; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and implementation of billfish, shark, and scientific observer recommendations. No reply to COC letter for multiple years, reiterate issues raised. Request action plan to address reporting and other deficiencies. Encourage seeking capacity building and technical assistance via Secretariat. Recommend that the Commission consider actions at its 2025 Annual Meeting pursuant to para. 6 of Rec. 06-13 in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22 18).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	No Compliance tables received.			Rec. 18-07	No Compliance tables received		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).				No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS		
Statistical data		No statistical data.				No Statistical data received		
Other reports	Rec. 18-05 / 18-06	No check sheet received.			Rec. 18-05	No BIL check sheet received.		
					Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		*Para 6 of Rec. 06-13 provides, in the pertinent part, "In the case of CPCs, actions such as the reduction of existing quotas or catch limits should be implemented to the extent possible before consideration is given to the application of trade restrictive measures. Trade measures should be considered only where such actions either have proven unsuccessful or would not be effective."
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls	Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transshipment.						
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GUINEA (REP.)

	2023					2024			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2024</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2024</i>	
Category A				Letter on recurring late or missing reports (request action plan); request information on in-port transshipment and national scientific observer program implementation (Rec. 21-15; Rec. 16-14).				Letter on recurring late or missing reports, including no IOMS section of Annual Report submitted (request updated action plan); request information on in-port transshipment, turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer program implementation (Rec. 21-15; Rec. 22-12; Rec. 16-14). Note possibility of future identification under Rec. 06-13 on trade measures in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient demonstration of improvements by 2025 Annual Meeting.	
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	No compliance tables received.			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.				No Annual Report IOMS sections received.			
Statistical data		No ST09 received.							
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.			
	Rec. 18-05 / 18-06	No check sheet received.			Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.			
Category C									
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			
	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted. ST08 received late.			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No domestic observer programme in place. Observer coverage <5%			
Port Controls	Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transhipment.			Rec. 23-17	CP58 Annual reporting on Port inspection activity received late.			
Vessel Controls									
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y		
		No reply to COC Chair letter / COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter Action plan submitted.				
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)									

HONDURAS

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on recurring reporting issues, request action plan; inquire about national scientific observer program. No response to last year's Chair letter. Reiterate items in last year's Chair letter for response.				Letter on recurring significant reporting issues (no Annual Report and other missing reports), request updated action plan; inquire about implementation of turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12). Note possibility of future identification under Rec. 06-13 on trade measures in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient demonstration of improvements by 2025 Annual Meeting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Confirmation of zero catches received late.			Rec. 18-07	Confirmation of zero catches received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.	New staff on fisheries team.			Annual Report IOMS received late.		
Statistical data		Confirmation of zero catches received late.				Statistical data / Confirmation of zero catches received late.		
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
	Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.	Honduras is a marine protected area, but is currently updating its legislation to take account of bycatch which occurs mainly in the artisanal section.		Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
	Rec. 21-15 / 16-14	No information on in-port transshipment; no scientific observer programme.						
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-11-13	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		No reply to COC Chair letter / COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to the Chair letter received late.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

ICELAND

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting.				Letter on late reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.	Apologies for late reporting. A change in the team dealing with ICCAT issues.					
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.						
Statistical data		Statistical data received late (2 October 2024).						
Other reports	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.	Iceland previously submitted information sheets in 2021 on both billfishes and sharks. In the ICCAT website it is stated beside the shark sheet file that the information is required for all CPCs that have not previously provided the check sheet, as we did in 2021. So there was a slight misunderstanding on our behalf that we have now worked on and rectified. We are aware that the shark check sheet was changed with additional information last year so we have submitted the sheets again in the new format, and we have already submitted them to the Secretariat, and we apologise for the misunderstanding and late re-submission.		Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-13 / 23-21	BCD Annual Report received late		
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-09-13	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

JAPAN

2023				2024				
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on overharvest of ALB-S and BUM.				Letter on late reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Difference between Task 1 and Compliance Tables. Overharvest of South albacore (47 t) and blue marlin (43 t).	The difference is caused by different data collection period, i.e., the Compliance Tables are on a fishing year basis (August-July), whereas Task 1 is on a calendar year basis (January-December). Eastern and western bluefin tuna have no gap between the Compliance Table (fishing year basis) and Task 1 (calendar year basis) because fishing operations for bluefin tuna were from September to December. Accordingly, this issue is a matter of methodology and should not be regarded as a non-compliance.		Rec. 18-07	Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	Japan believes this difference should not be regarded as a non-compliance because this is the matter of methodology. Due to the different data collection period between Compliance table (Fishing year basis, August - July) and Task 1 (calendar year basis, January - December), the data gaps were caused. In fact, such difference is seldom found on Eastern or Western bluefin tuna since the fisheries operations usually do not across calendar years, i.e. September - December.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report IOMS Sections 1 & 2 received late	Although the Annual Report was prepared by the due date, submission process was not completed on the IOMS due to the unfamiliarity of the system.	
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-07	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late.	Due to the oversight caused by a personnel change in the Agency, the data of the statistical document for the period of 1 July to 31 December 2023 was not submitted by the deadline, 1 April 2024. The data was submitted to the Secretariat on 23 April 2024.	
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-30	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305. COC-312 (EJF and Greenpeace) + response.			Response to the Chair letter received late.		Japan received the Chair letter on 25 October and responded on 30 October. According to the ICCAT Secretariat, the letter was supposed to be sent to Japan on 13 September, but due to an internal error at the Secretariat, the letter was not sent correctly to Japan.	
Other						ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305.	The vessel marking (vessel name) was painted black on white background. The part of the marking on the bow was looked worn because white paint was accidentally applied to the part of the vessel name when a crew painted to cover stains around the marking from the deck. The vessel name was repainted clearly at a port on 27 September immediately after the transshipment was completed. Photos were provided to the Fisheries Agency of Japan for confirmation.	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

KOREA (REP.)

	2023				2024			
<i>Category (Res. 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2023</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2023</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2024</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2024</i>
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
<i>Compliance Tables</i>					Rec. 18-07	Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	These differences are due to the reporting of Landings + Dead Discards in the T1NC data, while only landings are reported for the CP13.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
Category B								
<i>Annual Report</i>								
<i>Statistical data</i>								
<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.	We submitted it on 6 October 2024					
Category C								
<i>MCS- species related</i>								
<i>MCS General</i>								
<i>Port Controls</i>								
<i>Vessel Controls</i>								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust and EFJ).						
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
<i>Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)</i>								

LIBERIA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting issues, request action plan; continued swordfish overharvest (without quota, but catches reduced); note possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on trade measures in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if significant improvements are not made, while noting some improvements through the submission of the Billfish and Shark Check Sheets. Follow up on issues not addressed in Liberia's response to last year's Chair letter.				Letter on late or incomplete reporting, request updated action plan; implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), noting Liberia has indicated it has artisanal vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in its waters, to which Rec. 16-14 also applies.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 21-03 / 18-05	Continued overharvest of northern swordfish, despite reduced catches. Overharvest of BUM remains. No size sheet received with compliance tables. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables.			Rec. 18-07 / Rec. 22-03 / 19-05			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual report received late.				Annual Report Word received late.		
Statistical data		No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.				No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Unclear as to whether minimum standards of scientific observer programme are being met, more information required.			Rec. 16-14	Unclear as to whether minimum standards of scientific observer programme are being met, more information required. Observer coverage <5%.	N/A. Liberia does not have flag tuna vessels.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-09-23	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Response to Chair Letter.			
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)					Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	

LIBYA

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of shark measures, and scientific observer program.				Letter on late issues, overharvest of ALB-MD and SWO-MD implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) as ROP coverage does not substitute for satisfaction of national scientific observer coverage requirement.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables SWO-MD, ALB-MD, BFT-E.			Rec. 18-07, 22-05 and 16-05	Compliance tables received late / Overharvest of ALB-MD (2022: -67, 2023: -194 t) and SWO-MD [no quota, 2023 catches (250 t) > reserve (39.35 t)]. Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	Catch effort was increased due to availability of the species in our territorial water. First submission sent on 12/09/2024 correspondences due to the differences found and corrected version sent on 05/10/2024.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late and IOMS sections incomplete (no section 3).				Annual Report Word received late.	Sent on 05/10/2024, while there was misunderstanding between IOMS versions.	
Statistical data						No ST09 received.	No data to be submitted.	
Other reports					Rec. 18-05		No new data (para 2 Rec. 18-05).	
	Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet received late.			Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.	CPC Libya has no new Data for shark sheet. Para 2 of Rec. 18-06.	
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 18-06	No legally binding measures for species specific requirements.						
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%.	National observers covered all towing vessels. -Purse seiners were totally covered by ROP. - All data collected by National Observer Program were sent to ICCAT. - No BFT farms in Libya.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-06	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
					Response to Chair Letter.	JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

MAURITANIA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting issues, late reply to 2022 COC letter. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.				Letter on recurring reporting issues (late or missing reports), implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), no reply to 2023 COC letter.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late (30 Oct 2024).			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.		
Statistical data		No ST01 (fleet characteristics), Task 2 data or ST09 (observer data) received.				No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	No BIL check sheet received.		
					Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.						
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		Reply to COC Chair letter received late (30 Oct); COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

MEXICO

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter to request information on implementation of oceanic whitetip, hammerhead, and bigeye thresher shark requirements (Recs 09-07, 10-07 and 10-08).
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Some responses in Part 3 may need revision (dates do not coincide with Secretariat records).						
Statistical data		Some shark species not clearly defined.						
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related						Additional information needed on implementation of Recs 09-07, 10-07 and 10-08.	During 2024 Mexico initiated efforts to improve information regarding scientific research and national legislation on sharks, and in 2025 it will continue this work, the progress of which will be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.	
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).						
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

MOROCCO

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.	Rec. 22-01	BET catches greater than MAR threshold x3 x4, x5 since 2019 [2023 catches [1431.71 t] > Threshold (342.13 t)].		No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
	Rec. 21-09	Explanation for lack of dead discards of shortfin mako.	Morocco has regularly submitted discard data for shortfin mako caught taken as bycatch by the longline fleet targeting swordfish (form ST-09) for the period 2018-2021. For 2022, due to the prohibition on shortfin mako, fishers have changed fishing areas, fishing further offshore and avoiding coastal areas where shortfin mako are more abundant, as a result of which no bycatch has been recorded under the scientific observer programme. Morocco has also presented the SCRS with a statistical method for estimating total dead and live discards, which is currently being developed. The preliminary results will be presented at the SCRS meeting in 2024. Discard data will also be revised to include any unreported discards, including 2022.					
	Rec. 16-14	Insufficient information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 for large scale PS and LL vessels (over 15 m).	Morocco established a national observer programme in 2018 mainly to collect data on bycatches and discards (dead and alive). Data on bycatches and discards are reported to the Secretariat each year for vessels over 15 m, in particular for pelagic sharks taken as bycatch by longliners targeting swordfish. For purse seiners, data from this programme will be reported from 2024 onwards. For vessels less than 15 m in length, Morocco presented to the SCRS in 2023 the methodology for estimating bycatches and discards of sharks, turtles and other vulnerable species. This approach was adopted by the SCRS and will be implemented in 2024.					
MCS General	Rec. 19-09	Sighting sheets.	Responses contained in App 4 to COC-303.					
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).	As regards the Shark Trust request (COC-312/23), see the elements of the response above provided for the question "Explanation for the absence of dead discards of shortfin mako sharks" and "insufficient information on implementation of Rec. 16-14 for large PS and LL (over 15 m)".			JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

NAMIBIA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Maintain identification due to continued overharvests, reporting issues, discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance Tables. Notify of potential for future imposition of trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if significant improvements not made. Follow up on last year's COC Chair letter to request additional information on any regulations in place to implement the ICCAT marlin measure; the fisheries observer program, at-sea inspectors and port monitoring mentioned in their letter; generally, on the regulatory framework and compliance and enforcement measures by its authorities; and to help clarify data reporting requirements for chartering operations.				Maintain identification pending demonstration of progress addressing issues on which identification was based, while noting efforts notified to COC in Namibia's response letter.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 19-05 / 21-05	Overharvest of ALB-S and BUM, although latter reducing. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables for SWO, S, ALB-S and BET.			Rec. 18-07 / 19-05 / 22-11	Recurrent overharvest BUM (2023: -352,38 t) due to negative balance from previous years and overharvest SMAS (2023: -266 t). Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	Regarding SMAS, due to the fact that Namibia's National Law does not allow discards, the landed catch has to be indicated as such. Namibia has implemented measures to reduce future catches as well as to increase live releases. See also COC-308 Annex 4	Follow up on previous COC Chair letters to request additional information on any regulations in place to implement the ICCAT marlin measure; the fisheries observer program, at-sea inspectors and port monitoring mentioned in their letter; generally, on the regulatory framework and compliance and enforcement measures by its authorities; and to help clarify data reporting requirements for chartering operations.
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								Letter also to note late reporting and continued overharvest.
Category B								Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures or other actions under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient progress demonstrated at future meetings.
Annual Report		Some parts of the Annual Report received late.	Updated version submitted during meeting.				Annual Report, IOMS Part 1, received late.	
Statistical data		ST01 (fleet characteristics) received late. Some statistical data received late.					ST09 received late	
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-09-23	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
					Response to Chair Letter.	COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

NICARAGUA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on late reporting, while noting positively improvements from previous years, and to request information on in-port transshipment. Template for response to COC Chair not used. Follow up on issues raised in last year's COC Chair letter that were not addressed in response letter.				Letter on late reporting.
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables / zero catches confirmation received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.				Annual Report IOMS Section 2 received late.		
Statistical data								
Other reports								
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General	Rec. 21-15	No information on in-port transshipment.						
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-11-13	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to the Chair letter received late.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

NIGERIA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on recurring reporting issues (late Annual Report in 2023) and late reply to 2022 COC letter. Request action plan. Reiterate issues raised in last year's COC Chair letter.				Letter on recurring reporting issues (including no Annual Report in 2023 and 2024), implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), and no reply to 2023 COC letter (also a recurring issue). No statistical data received, prohibition on retention of ICCAT species by Nigeria vessels if Task 1 data not received prior to January 1, 2025. Reiterate request for action plan. Note possibility of future identification under Rec. 06-13 on trade measures in accordance with the Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if significant improvements are not made.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance table received late.			Rec. 18-07	No Compliance tables received.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).	We will report as soon as possible.			No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS.		
Statistical data						No Statistical data received.		
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		No reply to COC Chair letter: COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

NORWAY

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305. COC-312 (Shark Trust).				ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

PANAMA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on late reporting, while noting improvement. Compliance letter response template not used. Follow up on matters not addressed in response to last year's COC Chair letter.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables							Information updated in CP13	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports	Rec. 21-01/22-01	Tropical tuna fishing plan received late.	Apologies because we had some exceptional administrative problems.					
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls	Rec. 18-09	Two possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme (See Table 3 of COC-303/23).						
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Date sent:	Date sent:		Date sent: 2024-09-30	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
	COC-312 (Shark Trust and Greenpeace) + response.				Response to Chair Letter (2023 and 2022).	COC-312 (EU).	EU COC-312. Clarification provided to the EU sent on 11 October 2024. Note with reference AG-901-2024.	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

PHILIPPINES

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

RUSSIA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Request made to:	Request made to:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

	2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024	
Category A				Maintain identification for significant and recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report for three years, no implementation of scientific observer program, while noting request for capacity building assistance. Template not used for response letter and missing information identified in COC Chair letter not sent. Follow up on issues not addressed in response to last year's COC Chair letter.				Maintain identification for significant and recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report for four years as well as other missing reports, while noting some improvement, no implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14); no information on implementation of turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12); marlin overharvest. No response COC Chair letter. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures or other actions under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient progress demonstrated at future meetings.	
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	No Compliance Tables received. According to Task 1 data received, overharvest of BUM and WHM.			Recs. 18-07 / 19-05	Compliance tables received late. According to Task 1 data received, overharvest of BUM (-241.10 t) and WHM (2023: 16-02). Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).				No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS.			
Statistical data		Task 1 data received late. No ST01 (fleet characteristics), Task 2 data or ST09 (observer data) received.				No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.			
Other reports									
	Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.			Rec. 18-06	No SHK check sheet received.			
Category C									
MCS- species related	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			
	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%			
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.				
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)									

SENEGAL

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Maintain identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures, noting no submission of action plan as requested in 2022 Chair letter which called for "action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2023 meeting", continuing information on possible significant amounts of illegal transshipment and/or overharvest of ICCAT species (albacore and swordfish) as reflected by recurring discrepancies between exports and reported catch, validation of exports of such fish. Letter to also address reporting and implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Reiterate request for action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2024 meeting. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18). Include footnote in Senegal's compliance tables (COC-304/2023) for swordfish and albacore to note subject to revision due to potential overharvest detected through trade data.				Maintain identification pending further demonstration of progress addressing matters for which Senegal was identified, including on intended actions notified to ICCAT by Senegal in the action plan submitted to the COC. Letter to also note reporting issues and to request additional information in response to matters raised by under the Rec. 08-09 process. Inform of potential for trade-restrictive measures or other actions under Rec. 06-13 in accordance with ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Issues and Corresponding Actions (Ref. 22-18) if insufficient progress demonstrated at future meetings.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 21-01	Overharvest of BET, but payback plan proposed in PA1-505. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET, BUM and WHM. Possible overharvest of ALB-N in previous years as indicated by trade documents (see below, COC-312).	A draft recommendation on the repayment plan for the 2020 overrun has been proposed for discussion at the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. Senegal reduced its capacity (number of vessels targeting tropicals) between 2018 and 2023. This has resulted in tuna catches of 55% and 60% of its initial bigeye tuna limits in 2021 and 2022. Implementation of more effective catch monitoring measures (electronic logbook) as part of cooperation with the European Union. For BUM and WHM, the differences in Task 1 and compliance stem from statistical errors that have been corrected and submitted to the Secretariat.		Rec. 18-07 / 22-01	Overharvest of BET (2023: -0.41 t).		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.	Some parts of the report were submitted on time, while others were submitted late due to difficulties in accessing IOMS and submitting annexes (access agreements).			Annual Report, Word and IOMS Part 1, received late.		
Statistical data		No ST09 received.	There are difficulties in reporting bycatch data for baitboats and purse seiners flying the flag. An online observer reporting platform has been set up and training courses have been organised for observers.					
Other reports					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 18-06	More detail on legally binding domestic measures required.						
	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.	Currently setting up an EMS programme and hope to have improved data to report in the future.					
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-08	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		Response to Chair Letter; no action plan provided.			Response to Chair Letter.			
		COC-312 (Shark Trust, EJF, Greenpeace and EU).	Responses to EJF allegations already provided. For Greenpeace, please refer to the information provided last year concerning the vessels LISBOA and MAXIMUS. As regards Shark Trust, Senegal is surprised by the figures it has presented and their source and reliability.		Action plan submitted.	COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

SIERRA LEONE

Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on continued reporting issues, request action plan; no statistical data, notify of prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15 if not remedied; no reply to COC Chair. Reiterate items in last year's COC Chair letter.				Letter on continued reporting issues (late or missing), while noting improvement on key reporting requirements (Annual Report; Task 1 data); letter also to address implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12); reiterate request for action plan; no reply to COC Chair letter (recurring issue).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	No Compliance tables received.			Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		No Annual Report received (neither Word nor IOMS).				Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.		
Statistical data		No statistical data received.				No ST01 (fleet characteristics), ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports	Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.			Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.		
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		No reply to COC Chair letter / COC-312 (Shark Trust).			No response to the Chair letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

SOUTH AFRICA

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting matters, while noting responses to date.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for ALB-S.	Regrettably, there was an oversight on the part of our administration staff responsible for data submission. We're confident that ICCAT records can verify our consistent compliance with reporting requirements. Suffice to say, the compliance tables were submitted two days after the set deadline. A correction has been made regarding an error in the entry of the 2022 catch, and the necessary adjustments have been applied to the compliance table to ensure accuracy.					
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data		No ST01 (fleet characteristics) received.	Regrettably, there was an oversight on the part of our administration staff responsible for data submission. Suffice to say, the information was submitted.					
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 18-06	More detail on legally binding domestic measures required.	South Africa's commitment to shark conservation and management is exemplary, boasting a robust National Plan of Action that's been reviewed internally and externally by an international panel and redone very recently. Our efforts include the prohibition of retaining numerous threatened shark species, the ban on wire tracers, and the prohibition of shark finning, among other measures. In addition, South Africa has substantially decreased its shark catches from around 1,000 t to below 150 t in 5 years for both the IOTC and ICCAT region combined. It's noteworthy that all our shark conservation and management initiatives are not only legally binding but also meticulously adhere to ICCAT shark reporting requirements. We remain steadfast in our dedication to the responsible stewardship of shark populations.					
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-09	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust and EU).			Response to Chair Letter.	COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Identification for continued overharvest of southern swordfish with no quota and negative balance increasing. Letter to also note reporting issues; indication of chartered vessels in Annual Report but no information sent at time of chartering in 2022 (arrangements expired in 2021); implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14); inquire about status of WHM as no reported catch, down from significant catch in previous years. No response to Chair letter. Reiterate items in last year's COC Chair letter.				Lift identification in recognition of cessation of overharvest of southern swordfish. Letter on reporting issues (late or missing), WHM overharvest, implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Follow up on outstanding matters referenced in 2023 COC Chair letter as needed.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 21-03 / 17-02 / 17-03	Continued harvest of southern swordfish without a quota. Proportion of undersize fish in both North and South catches significantly over the tolerance level.			Rec. 18-07 / 19-05 / 22-04	Compliance tables received late (10/09). No overharvest of SWO-S in 2023, but negative balance (2023: -137.13 t) due to recurrent overharvest in previous years which can not be reduced due to the lack of an assigned quota. Recurrent overharvest WHM (2023: -38.43 t) since more than 5 years. Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.		
Statistical data		No ST01 (fleet characteristics) or ST09 (observer data) received.				No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.		
Other reports	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (during meeting).						
	Rec. 13-14	Indication of chartered vessels in Annual Report but no information sent at time of chartering in 2022; arrangements expired in 2021.						
Category C								
MCS- species related	Rec. 21-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2022 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.			Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of Rec. 16-14.			Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of Rec. 16-14. Observer coverage <5%.	St. Vincent and the Grenadines did not deploy any scientific observers in 2023. The vessels currently operating is the artisanal fleet.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

SYRIA

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter to reiterate issues raised in 2021 and 2022 COC letter to which there was no reply; implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).				Letter on reporting (including no IOMS part of Annual Report received), implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						Annual Report, Word, received on time but incomplete. No IOMS sections received.		
Statistical data		No ST09 received.				No ST09 received.		
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%		
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-10	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		No reply to COC Chair letter.			Response to Chair Letter (2022 and 2023).			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

2023					2024				
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024	
Category A				Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and late reporting. Request continued updates on modernization of fisheries regulatory framework addressed in response letter.				Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12), and recurring late reporting. Request action plan.	
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Compliance tables received late (17/09).			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
Category B									
Annual Report		Annual Report received late.	The Fisheries Division staff members with responsibility for preparation and submission of the report are currently engaged in efforts to finalise and enact Trinidad and Tobago's fisheries management legislation, hence the delay in submission.			Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.			
Statistical data		No ST09 received.				No ST09 received.			
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.			
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.			
					Rec. 22-01	Tropical Tuna Fishing plan submitted late.			
Category C									
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-07	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs (BET + SWO) received late.			
					Rec. 22-12	No information on implementation of turtle measure.			
					Rec. 22-01	Periodical reports for tropical species submitted late.			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding progress on implementation of scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%	Trinidad and Tobago is participating in the 4-year regional GEF project "Strategies, technologies and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)", under which pilot observer and EMS programs will be implemented. The project inception workshop was held in January 2024. Trinidad and Tobago's fisheries management governance framework is expected to be significantly upgraded through passage of the Fisheries Management Bill (2023). After extensive consultations in November 2023 and the subsequent review of comments, the Bill is due to be submitted to the Legislation Review Committee of the Cabinet at the end of 2024. The Bill provides for the collection and analysis of the necessary catch, fishing effort and biological data and implementation of observer programs and EMS.		
Port Controls									
Vessel Controls									
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y		
		COC-312 (Shark Trust).			Response to Chair Letter.				
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		
Request for Capacity Building (Indicate fund/type)									

TUNISIA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on reporting. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Size sheet in Compliance tables submitted late. Difference between Task 1 and Compliance table for BFT-E.			Rec. 18-07	Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-11-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303_App 4.			Response to Chair Letter received late.	JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4.		
		ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305. COC-312 (Shark Trust).				ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

TÜRKIYE

2023				2024				
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on BFT-E overharvest, while noting submitted written response.
Compliance Tables			Türkiye has conducted correspondences with the Secretariat for the clarification of the discrepancies. COC-304 and COC-308 Ann 1 have been updated accordingly.		Rec. 18-07 / 22-08	Overharvest of BFT (2023: - 35.131 t).	Carryover of underharvest from 2022 was inadvertently reported as higher in Türkiye's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity plan adopted by Panel 2 in 2023. As the miscalculation made in 2023's adjusted quota could only be noticed in the end of the fishing season, a remedial action has been taken in the following season by deduction of corresponding amount of overharvest from Türkiye's 2024 national quota. Accordingly, the amount exceeded has been compensated for 100% in 2024 and required administrative measures have been taken to avoid repetition of the issue. Explanations regarding Türkiye's quota adjustments for 2023 and 2024 have been provided as footnotes in COC-304_Rev2.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 22-01	Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.	Türkiye has not authorized any vessel in 2023 to participate any fishing activities towards bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) and yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) that are subject to certain TACs and allocation arrangements as to Rec. 22-01. Similarly, no special fishing permit for skipjack tuna fishery was issued in 2023. Notwithstanding, skipjack has been reported as bycatch rarely and in small quantities by longliners, gillnetters and purse seiners targeting mainly albacore and swordfish in previous seasons. Starting from the 2023 fishing season, relatively higher quantities of skipjack bycatches have begun to be reported by longliner and purse seiners fishing for other tuna and tuna-like species. There has been no FAD fishery or baitboat fishery targeting tropical tunas has occurred so far in Türkiye. In line with these developments, in order to closely monitor the skipjack fishery, which has only been a bycatch fishery up until now, and to manage it in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 22-01, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has introduced a new regulation through Ministerial Notification on Regulation of Commercial Fishing (No. 6/1), covering the period 2024-2028, that oblige those fishers that are intending to fishing for skipjack tuna to have an annual special fishing permit issued by the Ministry. In terms of the relevant reporting provisions in Rec. 22-01, in addition to the notification of vessels that have made bycatch, it is assessed that Türkiye will only be subject to the provisions specified in paragraph 43, and it is planned to notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the "Maximum annual bycatch limit" to be determined for 2025 by 31 January 2025.	
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Other		ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.				JIS reports with possible infringement and responses in COC-303 App 4. ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

UNITED KINGDOM

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on late reporting.
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07	Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables for ALB-N.						
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related					Rec. 18-07	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late.		
					Rec. 18-13 / 23-21	BCD Annual Report for UK-OT received late.		
MCS General							In 2023, Met UK had one domestic observer programme applicable to its North Atlantic albacore fishery which consisted of two pair trawlers. The observer provider ensures that all its observers are trained to fulfil the obligations of Ref. 16-24. Further details can be found within the Annual Report. Training was undertaken in the UKOTs 2023 for implementation of Rec. 16-14 in 2024. TCI does not have a domestic observers program instated. The VGB does not operate a domestic observer programme.	
					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%. (UK-Sta Helena 2021 RR 4.00% Nday UK-Turks and Caicos 2023 UK-British Virgin Islands 2023)	The met-UK has implemented its 5% observer coverage requirements under Rec. 16-14. The position in the UKOTs is: - BVI - use rod and reel which is not a fishing gear that requires coverage under para 4 of Rec. 16-14. - TCI -use rod and reel which is not a fishing gear that requires coverage under para 4 of Rec. 16-14. - StH - use rod and reel which is not a fishing gear that requires coverage under para 4 of Rec. 16-14. However, St Helena has a domestic observer programme (coverage 4%) and voluntarily reports this data to ICCAT. - Bermuda has longline fishing effort and the UK has trained and is now deploying an observer and expects compliance with the Rec. 16-14 in 2024 onwards.	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:					
Request for Capacity Building (Indicate fund/type)								

UNITED STATES

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on late authorized vessel lists submission, while noting explanation in submitted written response.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report	Ref. 12-13 / 18-07	Annual Report summary received late.						
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls					Rec. 21-14 / 22-01	Vessels added to the SWO-N, ALB-N and TRO lists more than 45 days prior to the date of submission to ICCAT.	On 7/18/24, the United States submitted a supplemental list of authorized vessels. As a result of technical error in our domestic permit database, 12 vessels were not submitted as part of previous U.S. monthly vessel list updates. However, these vessels were permitted and authorized domestically in line with the dates and information in the CP01. The technical error has been resolved.	
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

URUGUAY

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
							Exempt from the submission of the SHK check sheet by the Shark Species Group in the SCRS 2024 meeting.	
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

VENEZUELA

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on continued reporting issues, overharvest of ALB-N and WHM, late response to COC letter, and implementation of national scientific observer program, while noting plans notified by Venezuela at annual meeting. Request action plan to address these items. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.			Venezuela is taking the necessary measures with respect to the excess catches of BUM and WHM. The differences between the two formats are related to the discards of some species that are not reported in the CP13 form and in some cases to the catches reported for some species of the artisanal fleet of Playa Verde.	Letter on continued late reporting , overharvest, and implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 / 21-04 / 19-05	Continued overharvest of ALB-N and WHM. Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables for BET.	Difference results from discards being added to nominal landings. Venezuela will propose a payback plan for future years.		Rec. 18-07 / 19-05	Overharvest of bigeye (2023: -1.66 t) and recurrent overharvest WHM (2023: -294.65 t) due to negative balance from previous years / Improvement: 1st year w/o overharvest of ALB-N since 2016 Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	Venezuela is working on a monitoring plan that includes a series of actions such as: characterization of the artisanal fleet that catches ICCAT species, training and awareness workshops for fishermen, updating of relevant legislation, training of specialized inspectors in artisanal fisheries, among other activities that will allow us to establish an effective monitoring plan. In industrial fisheries, some measures are already being taken, such as the implementation of discards and the updating of legislation to regulate the capture and commercialization of these species.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Annual Report incomplete; some sections of IOMS missing.	Economic difficulties have prevented full compliance with ICCAT measures. Venezuela attended an IOMS workshop in October and hopes to be in a position to complete the report in a timely manner next year.			Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.	Venezuela has had some difficulties in responding on certain issues, however we are working to correct the errors and improve the transmission of information. In 2024, Venezuela completed all reporting requirements in the IOMS. Venezuela has also participated in training workshops to improve the use of the IOMS platform and the transmittal of information, with the aim of optimizing all processes.	
Statistical data						No ST09 received.	Venezuela does not have an active Observer Program. However, work on the implementation of a new program for which Venezuela already has legislation that contemplates the conditions under which it is expected to regulate the operation of such program as of 2025, is under way (Resolution DM/N° 009-24 dated 3 October 2024, published in Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela N° 42.983 dated 11 October 2024).	
Other reports	Rec. 21-01 / 22-01	Tropical tuna fishing plan received late.			Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.	Venezuela had some difficulties in responding to some concerns regarding this issue. However, the Billfish Check Sheet has been submitted to the Commission for the first time and is expected to be submitted on time next year.	
	Rec. 18-06	No updated shark check sheet received.	Venezuela will make more efforts to complete these.		Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.	Venezuela had some difficulties in responding to some concerns regarding this issue. However, the Shark Check Sheet was already submitted to the Commission on 23 September 2024 and is expected to be submitted on time next year.	
					Rec. 17-02	SWO-N fishing plan received late.		
Category C								
MCS: species related								
MCS General	Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of scientific observer programme and data reporting.	Venezuela is currently updating its legislation and hopes that it will be in force from mid-2024 onwards.		Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed regarding implementation of scientific observer programme and data reporting. Observer coverage <5%.	Venezuela does not have an active Observer Program. However, work on the implementation of a new program for which Venezuela already has legislation that contemplates the conditions under which it is expected to regulate the operation of such program as of 2025, is under way (Resolution DM/N° 009-24 dated 3 October 2024, published in Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela N° 42.983 dated 11 October 2024).	
Port Controls					Rec. 18-09	Two Port Inspection Reports with possible infringements from 2023.	Venezuela does not participate in activities related to foreign vessels, transshipments, or any other activity involving foreign vessels. However, there are bilateral agreements with other neighbouring countries in which some large-scale artisanal vessels of the Venezuelan fleet land in foreign ports. We have received some reports of artisanal vessels landing fishery products in Martinique, and the case is being reviewed to verify if there was any illegal activity, and if so, to take legal action.	
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-09-26	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
							The legal framework of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela provides for different types of sanctions for infractions that violate their regulations and technical standards, including the imposition of fines, temporary suspension of authorizations, revocation of authorizations and the confiscation, disposal and destruction of resources and objects associated with an illegal act.	
					Response to Chair Letter.	COC-312 (EU).	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in accordance with ICCAT correspondence S22-03234, dated 19 May 2022, reviewed the case and proceeded to apply a sanction for one year, initiating the administrative procedures referred to in communication DGDE-23-N°0278, dated 26 August 2022. Subsequently, in accordance with the principles of the sanctioning procedures established in the Decree with Rank, Value and Force of Law on Fishing and Aquaculture, during the hearing and evidentiary period, the shipowner proved that he had a valid fishing permit but without an International Maritime Organization (IMO) registration number; as a result, as a conciliation measure, the shipowner assumed the payment of the fines imposed and the arrangement of the documentation for missing paperwork, which is why correspondence DGDE- 23-N°0014, dated 23 January 2023 was transmitted to ICCAT so that the vessel could be incorporated to the list of vessels.	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/ rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

BOLIVIA

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter on late reporting. Follow up as needed on issues raised in 2022 COC letter, as reply was late and therefore time to review response was limited.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables								
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report		Some sections of Annual Report received late.						
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-09-18	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		Reply to COC Letter received late.			Response to Chair Letter.			
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

CHINESE TAIPEI

	2023				2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	The reason for such differences is whether or not discards should be included in the catch amount as currently there is no common rule across all species. The catch amount reported in our compliance tables is in line with the decisions or recommendations applicable then.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
		ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305. COC-312 (EJF and Greenpeace).				ROP Trans - PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

GUYANA

Category (Res. 16-17)	2023				2024			
	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				Letter to inquire about fishing for WHM and management measures in light of reported trade in but no catch reported (and negative balance). Response letter template not used for response to last year's COC Chair letter.				Letter on reporting issues (including no Annual Report) and implementation of national scientific observer program requirements (Rec. 16-14).
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-05 / 21-02	Despite report of zero catch of billfish there is indication that exports (and hence catches) have taken place in 2022. Overharvest from previous years remains, as does overharvest from previous years of SWO-N.			Rec. 22-03 / 19-05	Negative balance from previous years remains in SWO-N (no quota, 2023: -28.48 t), BUM (2023: -245.39 t) and WHM (2023: -157.26 t) despite no catches.		
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report						No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS		
Statistical data								
Other reports					Rec. 18-05	BIL check sheet received late.		
					Rec. 18-06	SHK check sheet received late.		
Category C								
MCS- species related						Additional information needed on implementation of requirements regarding sharks.		
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Observer coverage <5%.		
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent: 2024-10-11	Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y	
		COC-312 (EU).			Response to Chair Letter.	COC-312 (EU).		
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

SURINAME

2023					2024			
Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2023	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2023	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2024	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2024
Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on implementation of national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), while noting Suriname's written response to the COC on this matter.
Compliance Tables					Rec. 18-07	Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	The difference between Task 1 and the compliance table is due to the fact that in the Task 1 form the total landing data for all tuna vessels that are landing in Suriname was accidentally included, which also includes data from foreign tuna vessels landing their catch in Suriname. In the meantime, a revised Task 1 form which now includes only data from Surinamese flagged vessels is sent to the Secretariat.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
Category B								
Annual Report								
Statistical data								
Other reports								
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General					Rec. 16-14	Additional information needed on progress of implementation of scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%	Suriname just started in July 2023 catching tuna and tuna-like species with Surinamese flagged longline vessels. Because it is a great challenge to have human observers on board, we recently started to look for companies to implement the EMS. (PS 2.00% Ntrip)	
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other	Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?		Date sent:	Template completed?	Explanation received?	
Mitigating Circumstances	Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:		Request made to:	Date request sent:	Request approved/rejected:	
Request for Capacity Building (indicate fund/type)								

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**Statement to the Compliance Committee by Senegal**

The delegation of Senegal would like to make the following comments:

Article 1 of the "Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures" states the following:

"CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish and/or fish products or in whose ports those products are landed, shall identify such products, collect and examine the relevant import, landing or associated data on such products, in order to submit the relevant information in a timely manner to the ICCAT Secretariat for distribution to the other CPCs to collect any additional element in order that the Commission can identify each year:

- a) vessels that caught and produced such tuna or tuna-like species products,
[...]
- c) species (of tuna and tuna-like species) of the products,
- d) areas of catch (Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, or other area),
- e) product weight by product type,
- f) points of export,"

Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of Article 17(6) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation), the EU had the opportunity to act quickly and refer the matter to the Senegalese authority responsible for implementing Article 20(1)(b) of the IUU Regulation for any verifications relating to these products.

In accordance with the provisions referred to above, we can claim that the EU did not comply with Article 1 of Rec. 06-13 or with its own Regulation, given that it waited ten years (10 years) before providing this information to the ICCAT Secretariat (Annual Meeting in November 2021) and to the ICCAT COC, and then only forwarded the fraudulent certificates to Senegal on 27 May 2024.

Our delegation therefore believes that the EU's delay in transmitting to the Secretariat within the required timeframe both the commercial information related to its swordfish and albacore imports from Senegal and the false certificates constitute an omission that has weakened the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures.

Consequently, the EU is accountable in this matter, as is Senegal, and must be identified pursuant to Rec. 06-13, para 1.

In addition, the EU must provide Senegal with a list of all the importers involved in this fraud, who must be prosecuted and penalised for their actions, and inform the COC.

In the previous COC session, the EU delegate questioned the severity of the fine for €1,231,788 imposed on the vessel operator, claiming that the profits were greater. We would like to remind that there is no doubt that the import chain that benefited the most.

**Statement to the Compliance Committee by Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz
(German Foundation for Marine Conservation) (DSM)**

The writing is on the wall for sharks but compliance with ICCAT's reporting requirements and adopted Recommendations for sharks remains poor, hindering their effectiveness!

Although ICCAT has been a pioneer among tuna RFMOs in adopting binding recommendations for several shark species over the years, the adopted measures have so far failed delivering on the intended outcome to reduce shark mortality.

Among other reasons this is due to:

- the continued noncompliance of several CPCs with existing reporting requirements for sharks, including reporting of dead discards and live release estimates at species level.
- the lack of implementation of adopted ICCAT Recommendations into national legislation by CPCs.
- the lack of ambition of the Commission and its Committees to follow up on requirements agreed as part of these Recommendations and noncompliance of CPCs with agreed measures, including the provision of research data on mortality reduction and the adherence to quotas.

Only if Task 1 and Task 2 data on total mortality (including landings, dead discards, and live releases) are provided in full for all regions of the ICCAT area of competence can stock assessments and stock projections be improved and can managers be informed on required measures to reduce mortality of threatened species and to maintain commercially valuable stocks in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot. And only when adopted provisions are fully implemented and complied with by all CPCs can such measures effectively reduce mortality to sustainable levels.

We especially note that several CPCs, including several main harvesters of blue sharks continue to not record discards.

Rec. 22-11 requests CPCs to report retention of SA shortfin mako on a monthly and discards on an annual basis and foresees exclusion of noncompliant CPCs from future retentions. However, not all have submitted such discard data so far.

Rec. 22-11 allocates quotas for retention allowances to EU, Namibia, Brazil, Japan, Chinese Taipei and South Africa and foresees a repayment schedule in case of excess retention by CPCs until all excess retentions have been repaid. We therefore call to the COC to investigate excess of quotas and enforce the respective repayment schedule for 2025 and 2026.

The prohibition of dead discards by domestic legislation should not be considered as a justification for exempting of a CPC from repaying its excess retention in full in the following years but should trigger the introduction of measures that prevent the commercialization of any retentions in excess of a CPC's quota in case domestic legislation prohibits dead discards similar to existing provisions in Rec. 21-09 for the North Atlantic.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

**Joint Statement to the Compliance Committee by Ecology Action Centre,
Shark Trust, and The Ocean Foundation**

Ensuring compliance with ICCAT's shark measures

ICCAT has been a leader among RFMOs in the adoption of concrete requirements to safeguard sharks, but the success of these measures relies on proper implementation, demonstrated and verified through Compliance Committee (CoC) scrutiny.

The Ecology Action Centre, the Shark Trust, and The Ocean Foundation have prioritized participation in ICCAT's CoC processes. We are pleased by recent progress in fulfillment of the Shark Check Sheets as a tool to gauge and promote adherence with obligations.

Our analysis of these sheets shows significant improvements by 24 Parties from 2022 to 2024 in key areas, including:

- Increased reporting of relevant domestic regulations, with titles, numbers, and links;
- Greater detail and clarity regarding data collection on board vessels and at landing sites; and
- A remarkable 57% decrease (from 21 in 2022 to 9 in 2023) in Parties reporting that they “do not target” sharks/particular species, a response clarified as unacceptable by the CoC.

We commend the Parties that have recently submitted their first Shark Check Sheets, including the Republic of Guinea and Angola this year. This information is helpful for broadening the understanding of regional shark conservation efforts.

Despite these advances, critical gaps in information and implementation persist. Of particular concern is the continued lack of reporting on relevant domestic regulations for implementing ICCAT shark measures. In the last round of submissions, 36% failed to include this information in their responses (for at least one measure) or listed regulations that do not specifically address the ICCAT requirement. Relevant, cited regulations are essential for verifying national-level implementation and thereby adherence with treaty obligations.

The ongoing dearth of reporting on discarded sharks remains a serious problem. Such data are vital for evaluating the effectiveness of all ICCAT shark measures and particularly key to monitoring compliance with prohibitions on threatened shark species. Yet, most Parties are still failing to meet this obligation. We stress that even countries whose fleets do not encounter ICCAT-managed shark species should be submitting '0's in their discard reports.

A full third of Parties continue to report that a species is not found in their waters or encountered by their fleets, often as a means of self-exemption from measures.

These gaps reinforce the pressing need for ICCAT to establish a clear process for the SCRS and CoC to evaluate Parties' requests for exemptions (as per 18-06) or - if the task is too challenging - simply delete para 3.

Holding Parties to account for proper implementation and enforcement of ICCAT shark management measures is crucial for the recovery of some of the Atlantic's most vulnerable species. We look forward to continued cooperation toward improvements in the Shark Check Sheet process and shark measure compliance overall.

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 meeting was opened by the Chair Mr Neil Ansell (EU) who welcomed everyone.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

In the absence of offers from CPCs the Chair proposed himself as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair provided a brief overview of the agenda and his intentions for the meeting. As in previous meetings he proposed prioritising early discussions on proposals to best utilise the time available and intentions of CPCs. He also reminded the various reference documents including the annotated agenda and the “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)”.

The Agenda was adopted with slight amendments and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

4. Review of the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair informed that the various items would be taken up in their respective agenda item in the meeting. The [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM WG\)](#) was approved by the PWG.

5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programmes

The Chair invited the proponents of documents to present their proposals.

The European Union (EU) first introduced the “Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2023 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16)” (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**), followed by “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-16 amending ICCAT Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system”, which sought to amend this Recommendation with the intention of making the derogation permanent. The EU noted that the derogation under para 5b) solely relates to EU Member State reporting obligations while the derogation under para 5d) may be implemented by all CPCs. It went on to inform that the report is based on 2023 data obtained from the eBCD system and includes statistics on the total number and volume of trade events between EU Member States and exports. Extracting the required information is currently not automatic and hence is very time consuming and burdensome. It noted that trade events exempt from validation under para 5b) only account for 30% of the total trades in the period concerned (representing >32,000 t) with the average weight being approximately 80 kg per trade.

In its draft proposal to amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system (Rec. 22-16)*, the EU sought to change the status of the derogation under para 5b) into a permanent one. It underlined that paragraph 5a) grants CPCs the ability not to record trades within their CPCs, which however is not the case for the EU which has to record all its internal trades between EU Member States. The derogation in 5b) to allow for validation of all the recorded trades between Member States removes significant administrative burden from EU Member States and is consistent with the principle of free market within the EU and seeks to achieve a level playing field between the EU and other CPCs.

Japan noted the concerns of the EU in particular on the current reporting burden although suggested a change in the word “permanent” in the proposal which prejudices the future measure. The United States expressed concerns with the potential loophole the derogation creates while recognizing the challenges the EU faces in the implementation of the eBCD for trades within its internal market. At the same time, Japan sought clarification on several technical questions related to the EU report.

The EU thanked all CPCs for the constructive comments and questions received. After further discussions and a willingness to engage on the technical clarifications on both paras 5b) and 5d) as well as further editorial changes, a revised version of the document was agreed and referred to plenary for adoption.

Upon adoption of this revised version, the PWG agreed that the Standing Catch Document System Working Group (CDS WG) will, at its meeting in 2025, work with TRAGSA to develop a new functionality in the eBCD system to enable the cross-checking between the average weight of the total catches in the eBCD system and the approximated weights of the individual fish referred to in the derogation in paragraph 5d) of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-16 amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system (Rec. 24-16)*.

Being a joint proposal, the Chair invited EU or Egypt to present “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on aquaculture bluefin tuna”. The EU informed that it has been working intersessionally with Egypt and this builds on the work presented at the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2024. It informed that previous discussions had raised concerns on the monitoring and control of trades stemming from such activities as well as preference for a new standalone measure in ICCAT independent of current eastern and western BFT management plans. The EU went on to remind CPCs of the existing BFT CDS programme for BFT-E which has been in place since 2007 and very successful in fighting IUU fishing and contributing to stock recovery. It also reminded of the importance of rigorous monitoring and traceability measures and to fully understand and mitigate possible environmental risks these activities may have, including on wild stocks.

The EU outlined the new obligations in the proposal including for CPCs seeking to export aquaculture BFT to establish a traceability system regarding the source of the concerned BFT. Trades of BFT from aquaculture would need to be fully incorporated into the eBCD system and the relevant conservation would need to be adjusted to allow the system to clearly record the origin of the BFT concerned. Information on aquaculture facilities established within the territory of ICCAT CPCs would need to be submitted to Panel 2 by way of annual aquaculture plans in which CPCs shall declare the number of installations pertaining to this activity and the monitoring and control measures CPCs will put in place including those to prevent mixing with wild stocks. Finally, the proposal requests the CDS WG to develop necessary amendments to the eBCD system to accommodate these activities and trade flows.

Following a number of interventions and questions from CPCs, it was agreed to be clearer and consistent in the terminology used so that the term “aquaculture” in this context would include both artificially hatched eggs and aquaculture based on imported eggs as informed by Cabo Verde in the 2023-2024 meetings. Following a suggestion from Japan it was also agreed to include additional language clearly stipulating a prohibition on the trade of such products from aquaculture until ICCAT establishes the appropriate measures outlined in the proposal.

Many CPCs recognized the importance of the issue and welcomed the opportunity for detailed discussion on new measures to clarify and appropriately regulate these activities. Furthermore, the appropriateness of a separate measure as well as clarifying which measures from the respective eastern and western management plans would also remain relevant. Finally, it was noted the importance of the origin of BFT product from aquaculture to be clearly distinguished from wild stocks and the need for all trades to be fully incorporated into the eBCD system and to ensure that no loopholes are created in the current management of the wild BFT fisheries.

As regards the eBCD system and the associated Recommendations, the PWG was mindful of the tasks being asked of the CDS WG both on system developments as well as technical suggestions for amending [Rec. 22-16](#) and the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme \(Rec. 23-21\)](#).

As a result of further discussion, the EU and Egypt thanked CPCs for the support and contributions of other CPCs to arrive at a new version which includes a clear definition of aquaculture excluding short-term live storage, farming and fattening and providing certainty to operators and consistency to the proposal. It also contains the requirement for submission of an annual aquaculture plan for Panel 2 review and endorsement and extends the obligation of a plan to all CPCs intending to undertake these activities and, finally, a request to the SCRS to provide advice to assess the potential environmental impact of aquaculture activities including on wild stocks.

There was a commitment by the PWG to follow the development of these activities and continue discussions on this subject. The revised version was subsequently endorsed by the PWG and sent to plenary for adoption.

The Chair then provided an overview of the work of the Catch Document System Working Group (CDS WG) firstly by reminding that the group was established by way of [Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\) \(Rec. 23-22\)](#) and in so doing, moved from an ad hoc to a standing group. It also absorbed the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group in its discussions and work. Two meetings of the CDS WG took place in 2024, one in March and one in June. The First Meeting of the CDS WG in March was tasked solely with dealing with eBCD related issues alongside the developing consortium TRAGSA and the Secretariat, including ongoing developments related to recent amendments to the Eastern BFT Plan. In general, it was considered that the system was working well and that the group would need to focus on the ongoing developments into 2025 including the new tasks being requested in ongoing discussions. It noted that there will be one meeting foreseen in presence in 2025, although as provided by [Rec. 23-22](#) another meeting may be called if needed.

The Second Meeting of the CDS WG in June focused on more general discussions on moving towards potential new ICCAT CDS programmes for other species. To support these discussions documents were submitted by Japan including a draft workplan and the results of the analysis on the basis of the criteria established in the [Recommendation by ICCAT on a process towards the establishment of a catch certification scheme for tuna and tuna-like species \(Rec. 12-09\)](#). The group underlined that existing statistical document programmes for bigeye and swordfish dated from 2002 and were widely considered not fit for purpose. The merits were noted of recommending moving towards a catch based CDS over a trade based CDS, as well as an electronic based system including taking onboard the lessons learned from the eBCD system. Finally, the group continued to emphasize the need for interoperability with existing domestic programmes (e.g. EU IUU Regulation) to reduce the burden particularly for developing CPCs and potential challenges faced by small scale and artisanal fishers. Bigeye and swordfish were identified as the clearest potential priority candidates for new CDS programmes in ICCAT. The Chair finally recalled the “Draft workplan of the Standing Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) (Agenda item 4.1)” contained in Appendix 3 to the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) which seeks to guide the group in its work through the period 2025 - 2026.

Japan thanked all CPCs for their contributions and discussions and look forward to the continued work of the Group. The EU supported the ongoing work and underlined the importance of building on each other's experiences and developments and noted the benefits of using the EU IUU electronic platform which could be well adapted and meet the requirements of any potential new ICCAT CDS programme.

The PWG supported the continuation of the group's work into 2025 and 2026 by way of the adopted workplan and will closely monitor its work, including in the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in 2025.

5.2 Observer Programmes and Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)

The Chair invited the EU to present the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean – Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)” which sought to amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)* on the use of EMS on processing vessels. The EU opened by underlining that it considered this a natural progression to the successful results of the pilot projects on the use of EMS on two processing vessels presented at the Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (EMS WG) through the document “Pilot Project on Remote Electronic monitoring (REM) onboard bluefin tuna processing vessels – Executive Summary” and the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in June 2024. It recalled that processing vessels constituted a weak point in the chain from a control point of view, especially considering that regional observers are only deployed in processing vessels at the request of operators (during scheduled harvesting operations) while the processing vessels remain in the vicinity of the farms for weeks at a time. It considered that the use of the EMS system addresses these control concerns while at the same time making control activities more efficient and cost effective.

Some CPCs noted that existing EMS standards adopted in 2023 only cover longliners and purse seiners hence further discussions and possible amendments to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 23-18)* may be needed to encompass processing vessels. There were several technical questions from a number of CPCs including on the role of the national and regional observers and control objectives. Japan noted that illegal processing can only result from illegal harvesting, and if the primary objective of the proposal was to prevent illegal processing, then the focus should instead be on strengthening the monitoring and control in the farms including increasing Regional Observer coverage and/or enhanced 24/7 surveillance (e.g. video cameras) which may be cheaper and more effective. Other CPCs requested further time to consider this proposal including the practical implications of the measures.

The EU thanked those CPCs which had expressed their views and constructive comments and committed to continuing the discussions in 2025 including in the framework of IMM with a view of reaching consensus at the 2025 annual meeting.

The Chair then proceeded to provide a brief overview of the work of the EMS WG which this year focused on the requirements laid down in *Rec. 23-18*. In general, as in 2023 the EMS WG continues to represent the forum in ICCAT for all things EMS related.

The EMS WG had invited CPCs to report any updates they had on further trials and developing EMS activities. The Chair went on to outline the main deliberations of the EMS WG including how best to fulfil its tasks of reviewing CPC national programmes in accordance with paragraphs 15 and 18 of *Rec. 23-18*. At the time of the meeting, it was noted that none had been received by the Secretariat although this was to be expected given the recent entry into force of the Recommendation. The PWG recommended that guidance was needed from the Commission on procedural aspects and assessment criteria of these tasks. The PWG also considered modalities on how best to liaise and coordinate with the SCRS while undertaking these tasks as requested in the Recommendation.

The PWG noted that the templates created and circulated by the Secretariat were only a proposal based on the information annexed in *Rec. 23-18*. It was noted that some comments were received as reflected in the document “Comments from CPCs and revised templates for electronic monitoring systems (EMS), domestic programmes description, and implementation reports”, although some CPCs felt some elements went beyond those in the Recommendation and so it was agreed to take this up intersessionally including in the Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (EMS WG) and the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in 2025.

It was commented in the Meeting of the EMS WG and the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on IMM in 2024, that the original workplan of the group agreed a few years could benefit from a re-fresh. The Chair subsequently presented an updated workplan through the document “Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG EMS) Possible priorities, implementation strategies and tentative workplan”, a revised version of which, following some further refinements including on the inclusion on small scale fisheries, was agreed (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

On the various pilot projects related to EMS, the Chair referred to the revised version of the “Pilot Project on Remote Electronic monitoring (REM) onboard bluefin tuna processing vessels – Executive Summary”, which was established in 2021 by *Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project for the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on bluefin tuna processing vessels* (Res. 21-17). He subsequently asked the Secretariat to briefly present the “Executive summary of the stereoscopic cameras pilot project, objective 1: Test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer” and “Executive summaries of the stereoscopic cameras pilot project, objective 2: Automation of video footage analysis”. The pilot project, which had been established by the *Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis* (Res. 22-15), was implemented throughout 2024. The presence of the implementing contractors in the meeting was noted should there be any technical questions. The project was considered to be progressing well with some positive results to date, although further time and testing was needed in particular on the use of stereoscopic cameras at sea and artificial intelligence (AI) for automatic counting. A revised version of the “Executive summaries of the stereoscopic cameras pilot project, objective 2: Automation of video footage analysis” was produced. The PWG looked forward to further discussions on this at the Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (EMS WG) in 2025, and reporting to the PWG.

The Chair asked the United States to present “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in national observer programs”. CPCs expressed their concern on the recent reports of death and serious injury of fisheries observers in recent years and agreed that data collected by observers were essential to the functions of this Commission. The health, safety and welfare of those observers were critical to their ability to perform their duties. It was recalled that as a part of CPCs’ obligations under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* (Rec. 16-14) on scientific observer programs, CPCs have a duty to oversee the safety of national observers. ICCAT has already taken some important steps to strengthen the rules that ensure the health and safety of observers and the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme adopted by way of *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT’s Regional Observer Programs* (Rec. 19-10). The proposal requires CPCs to prohibit the threatening, intimidating or harming of fisheries observers and outlines the various requirements for deployment including appropriate safety, training and safety and communication equipment and related procedures.

Several CPCs expressed their overall support for the proposal and underlined the importance of this issue for ICCAT. The PWG also referred to other international obligations, in particular those under the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Marine Organization (IMO) and the Cape Town Agreement.

Following some further discussions and amendments, in particular relating to emergency protocols, safety inspections and protocols and flag State responsibility, the proposal was agreed and forwarded to plenary for adoption as “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in CPC observer programs”.

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The Chair invited the United States to present “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-15 on transshipment”. It was noted that ICCAT’s current transshipment measure includes a clause requesting the Commission to review this measure in 2024 and consider improvements. The United States recalled the adoption in 2022 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and that it considered it timely to review ICCAT’s current measure to bring it in line with the voluntary guidelines and make some other potential improvements based on ICCAT’s experience implementing the current measure over the last three years. It referred to the extensive discussions already on the document which took place in the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2024 and additional elements including a prohibition

on transshipment activities by vessels included on the ICCAT IUU list, requirement for IMO numbers and flag State responsibilities and some additional reporting elements including on the transshipment declaration.

Japan and Korea (Rep.) noted that ICCAT does not need to apply all of the elements in the FAO guidelines to its regulations and that since no problems have arisen from non-CPC carrier vessels a step-by-step approach should be applied, such as first asking non-CPCs to apply for ICCAT membership.

Following further discussions including a limitation only to non-CPC vessels/flags not currently on the authorised list, a revised version of the proposal was adopted. The EU informed that it did not want to block consensus on the proposal nonetheless did not agree to having Non-contracting Party vessels operating in the Convention area and considered this to be sending the wrong message on monitoring and control measures within ICCAT.

The Chair referred to the “Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment 2023/2024”. The ongoing efforts of the implementing consortium was acknowledged.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to inform on the items relating to transshipment in the items requiring clarification as contained in “Clarifications requested on PWG matters and responses from CPCs”, which is taken from the Appendix 7 to the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) held in June 2024.

5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

The Chair recalled some requests for clarification related to Access Agreements discussed during the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures as contained in “Clarifications requested on PWG matters and responses from CPCs”, which is taken from the Appendix 7 to the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) held in June 2024. In the interests of time the Chair suggested that with the agreement of Belize, the CPC which originally asked the question, that the document be modified to clarify that all catches under an access agreement count towards the quota of the fishing CPC. This was considered agreeable and revised version of the document was agreed and is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes

The EU informed the PWG of issues occurring in the framework of international inspection schemes for BFT-E and Mediterranean swordfish. As it mentioned previously, the EU invests heavily in the control operations under these programmes and deploys a significant number of assets and human and financial resources. Whenever patrol vessels or assets detect a possible infringement the inspection report is sent immediately to the flag CPC and to the ICCAT Secretariat and published. While it appreciates the positive cooperation with other CPCs to date, it nevertheless continues to face situations that in its opinion undermines the effectiveness of the programmes and ICCAT measures more broadly, including a lack of response from CPCs or replies that provide opposite conclusions and thus bring into question the effectiveness of the provisions in place.

To address the issue, it considers that ICCAT should discuss procedures both to monitor the follow up of the infringements by the flag State as well as for dispute settlement in case of disagreement between the inspecting CPCs and CPCs flag perhaps by way of technical review group. While these are only initial ideas at this stage, it considers the issue as a serious one and look to bring a more detailed paper to the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2025. Morocco outlined its current procedures for following up and responding to all cases and welcomed any further discussions on this subject.

5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

The Chair asked the Secretariat to briefly introduce the [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance \(PIEG\)](#).

The Secretariat informed that one meeting of the PIEG was held online in February 2024. No training updates and new requests were received before and during the meeting although updates and requests had since been received from the Guinea (Rep.) and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The mission to Namibia with

experts from Canada and the United States was initially planned for October however postponed to December 2025. The PIEG finally suggested to review and update the two questionnaire templates elaborated in 2017 and 2018.

The UK presented its discussion paper “Strengthening ICCAT’s Port State Measures (PSMs)” in which it intended to initiate discussions on potential revisions to the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-09 on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 23-17), including intersessionally in the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2025. It considered that port State measures represent the first line of defence in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) sets the international standard for such measures. However, it considered that Rec. 23-17 contains a number of gaps and inconsistencies including cooperation, exchange of information, inspector training, port pre-notifications and follow-up action by port States.

Several CPCs expressed their thanks to the UK and underlined the importance of this measure and look forward to further discussions in 2025. China (P.R.) thanked the UK and informed that it will soon ratify the PSMA after which it will be in a better position to contribute with a view to improving these measures in ICCAT. Morocco underlined the importance of data reporting and the need to avoid duplication in information reporting to anything that may be transmitted in the context of the PSMA and potential burden to CPCs. The EU fully agreed on the importance on many aspects mentioned, including real-time information exchange and the cooperation between CPCs as essential components for the full implementation of the Rec. 23-17. It recalled its concern with the low number of inspections submitted by CPC under para 29 of Rec. 23-17 as reflected in the *Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)* and the “Summary of annual reporting on port inspection activity submitted by CPCs”. It agreed to engage with the UK and other CPCs and looks forward to discussing this in the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2025. The PWG thanked the UK and the Chair confirmed this will be included in the IMM agenda.

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

Chair referred to information is included in the “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)”. There were no documents or interventions related to this agenda item.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

There were no documents or interventions related to this agenda item.

5.9 Flag CPC responsibilities

Canada presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to prevent, deter, and eliminate marine pollution from fishing activities”. It started by informing that the proposal is intended to build on the *Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear* (Rec. 19-11), which is the current measure in place in ICCAT. It intended not only to strengthen the existing provisions that prohibit abandonment and discarding of fishing gear, but also to establish further controls on marine pollutions more broadly in accordance with recent international commitments including the UN Secretary General’s latest report on Sustainable Development Goals, Joint Group of Experts on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection and Report of the 36th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries which noted the increased recognition and global commitment to reducing marine plastic pollution including from fisheries and aquaculture activities. It outlined that the measure was complemented with provisions on preventative measures, retrieval and reporting and a new provision for observer-based reporting.

The PWG thanked Canada and agreed on the intentions and importance of addressing these issues. Several CPCs expressed views that the general issue of marine pollution should be handled within the framework of the IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). In this regard CPCs questioned the scope and felt aspects of the current proposal went beyond the existing provisions of IMO and MARPOL Annex V in particular concerning organic matter. Some CPCs also questioned the practical implications relating to the reporting of foreign substances and what the Secretariat would be asked to do with any information reported to it. Some CPCs also questioned some of the definitions used which may lead

to different interpretations and ultimately undermine the current objective of the existing measures. Other CPCs also felt it went beyond the current measure on some aspects, in particular concerning longliners which were excluded from [Rec. 19-11](#).

Canada noted that it was not its intention to go beyond the provisions of MARPOL and felt indeed that aspects of the proposal directly contribute in meeting objectives laid down in Article 8 of the Convention and the principals of responsible conduct of fishing activities under CPC flags. It informed that it has taken good note of the valuable comments provided by CPCs and proposes to continue working intersessionally with a view to continuing discussions at the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2025 and welcoming further dialogue from CPCs in the meantime.

5.10 Other issues

The Chair invited the EU to present its “Discussion paper on driftnets” which aims at supporting a discussion and possible improvements to the existing driftnet ban in the Mediterranean and its proposed extension to the ICCAT Convention area. It informed that the issue came to its attention during past inspections carried out on other CPC vessels in the Mediterranean Sea under the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection for bluefin tuna and swordfish which highlighted control issues and difficulties in enforcing ICCAT rules on driftnets due to the lack of a sound legal basis. The weaknesses identified in the current ICCAT rules therefore jeopardize these control and inspection efforts and undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures.

It went on to summarize the current issues which included a lack of definition of large pelagic fisheries and of driftnets, that the current prohibition is for the use, but not for the possession of driftnets, or the legal instrument in which this prohibition is contained (Mediterranean swordfish Recommendation). Furthermore, given the practical limitations of inspecting at sea, a ban on having driftnets on board as well as the development of clear technical definitions for driftnets are also issues.

It concluded by proposing that discussions continue at the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in 2025. After discussions in ICCAT, there should be appropriate coordination with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to ensure proper coordination and the adoption of effective and enforceable rules. The EU is available to coordinate this work in order that a proposal can be presented for adoption at the 2025 ICCAT annual meeting.

Several CPCs agreed on the importance of the issue and that they were ready to participate in further discussions in 2025, including with the GFCM. A CPC noted that we should be mindful of the requirements in the UN Resolution and that any extension from the Resolution should be science based. Other CPCs, while agreeing with the objectives, stated that ICCAT needed to agree clearly on the definitions first before agreeing to enlarge the scope of the ban.

The PWG thanked the EU and encouraged the IMM to take this up intersessionally in 2025 tasked with as a priority, the discussions and development of clear definitions for driftnets.

6. Review and establishment of the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) vessel list

The Chair asked the Secretariat to present the “Draft 2024 ICCAT List of Vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities” which was noted to contain a number of new vessels as well as some updated information cross-listed from other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (t-RFMOs). The Secretariat informed that there are 1 cross-listed vessel from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and 13 vessels cross-listed from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) bringing the overall number of IUU vessels on the list to 164. The Secretariat did not receive any submissions or communications within the deadline established under para 3 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities \(Rec. 23-16\)](#). Costa Rica contacted the Secretariat in October 2024, following the circulation of the ICCAT IUU vessel listing, about how the information is presented on the ICCAT website for two IUU vessels. It requested the removal of Costa Rica relating to those two vessels that have been on the ICCAT list since 2013 by providing evidence indicating that these no longer had any links with this CPC. The reference to Costa Rica for these IUU vessels was linked to their owners and to the previous flag, removal of which was requested by this CPC.

Since their inclusion was based on a cross-listing with IATTC, Costa Rica was informed that, in accordance with the provisions in [Rec. 23-16](#), it is not in ICCAT's purview to make these modifications which must be done by the IATTC. Any of such changes on the IATTC IUU vessel list would then take effect in ICCAT IUU list once the subsequent years cross-listing process had been carried out.

Costa Rica thanked the Secretariat and informed the PWG that it will do the necessary with the IATTC. The EU confirmed that it had no objection to the changes referred to and removing Costa Rica as the previous flag/owner, but noted the importance of the changes first being effectively made by the IATTC.

In 2024, the Secretariat requested some clarification regarding the cross-listing of IUU vessels; the questions and responses from CPCs, as well as the conclusions agreed during the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, are contained in Appendix 7 to the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#), which was held in June 2024. A revised version is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**.

7. Other matters

A joint statement was submitted by Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)*.

Canada noted its appreciation of this joint statement on High Seas Boarding and Inspection Schemes (HSBI) and hoped that these NGOs would assist in future discussions. Canada went on to recall that at the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2024, it presented a discussion paper on High Seas Boarding and Inspection and a possible Convention area wide joint inspection scheme within ICCAT. It considered the discussion helpful but made clear that concerns remain on the part of some CPCs and that more dialogue and work will be required before ICCAT is ready to move forward in establishing such a scheme. With this in mind, Canada informed that it did not submit a proposal on HSBI at this year's Commission meeting, however in its view this remains a critical issue for ICCAT to address in order to strengthen its monitoring, control, and surveillance and looks forward to continuing discussions in future meetings.

The Chair asked Libya to present its "Request for Action on "A Case for Libya's joint fishing operation (to be discussed under Agenda item 7)" (PA2_610/2024) - Follow-up document" in which it detailed a situation after the 2024 fishing season involving a vessel not being able to catch its quota due to mechanical breakdown and the transferring of the unfished quota to a new joint fishing operation (JFO) as suggested by the Secretariat. It informed that the correct reallocation of vessel quotas within the new JFO was not possible in the eBCD system and it was therefore requesting the PWG for its views on how this could be facilitated in the system so that it would be able to fully utilize its available allocation.

The Chair recalled this issue was also discussed in Panel 2 and related discussions on the possible amendment to the eastern BFT measure was ongoing. Following some technical discussions to confirm its feasibility and in the absence of any objections, the PWG agreed for the Secretariat to instruct TRAGSA to make the necessary changes in the system to resolve the issue.

The United States asked regarding the status of the [Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM WG\)](#) related to a possible Regional Observer Programme for tropical tunas. The Chair responded by informing that the Terms of Reference were requested to the IMM by Panel 1 in early 2024 and subsequently presented to the PWG in this meeting, however, given the state of play of discussions in Panel 1, he suggested this document was not discussed unless of course there were any objections from CPCs, of which there was none.

A number of observers requested the floor noting the work of the PWG and support for the ongoing work of the IMM into 2025 on many of the issues discussed.

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

8. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked all delegations, the Secretariat and the interpreters.

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
 - 5.2 Observer Programmes and Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)
 - 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 programmes
 - 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 CPC responsibilities
 - 5.10 Other issues
6. Review and establishment of the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) vessel list
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2023 (paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16)
(submitted by the EU)

Introduction

As other ICCAT Contracting Parties (CPCs), the European Union (EU) has implemented the eBCD system since 26 May 2016 for the Bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Paragraph 5b of Recommendation 22-16 provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. Para 5d of Recommendation 22-16 offers an alternative approach for providing weight of tagged fish. Both provisions are up for review in 2024, and in the meantime the EU is required to provide the Commission with an annual report on its implementation.

Derogation under paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 22-16

The data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. These data were partially extracted through the functionality in the eBCD system. Additional data on verification was received from the Member States administrations.

The scope of this report has been restricted to the trade events for Bluefin tuna from seller in EU Member States, to avoid duplication, and because the selling Member State is responsible for the validation of the trade in eBCD.

In 2023, the EU Member States recorded 189,151 trade events¹ in the eBCD system involving 50,249t. Regulation (EU) 640/2010² provides the obligation to register trade events inside of the EU-Member States. Consequently, 67% of the trades recorded in the eBCD by the EU are internal trades inside single EU Member States' territories (127,644 trades). The remaining trades include 17,562 exports to other non-EU countries (either ICCAT CPC or not) (9%), and 43,945 trades between EU Member States (23%).

The quantities involved amounted to 12,575 t (25%) for internal trades, and 32,936 t (66%) for exports. Trades between EU Member States amounted to 4,738 t, which represents 9% of the total weight traded (**Figure 1**).

Amongst the total trade, 43% (81,611) of the total trades were validated, and 57% (107,031) were exempted of validation, for a quantity of 41,560 t (83%) and 8,656 t (17%) respectively (**Figure 2**). In addition to the intra-Member State trade, the exemptions include both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 22-16 and exemption for tagged fish according to para 13c of Recommendation 22-16.

Regarding the trade events exempted from validation³, 32,203 of them concerned trades between EU Member States (derogation under para 5b) (30%), and 8,290 involved tagged fish (4%), with respective quantities of 2,701 (31%) and 3,112 t (6%) (**Figure 4**). The remaining exempted events are related to internal trades (**Figure 3**). Tagged fish concerned both trades between EU Member States and internal trades.

The average quantity by trade (by eBCD) was 80 kg for trades exempted of validation in line with the derogation 5b, and of 380 kg for trades of tagged fish (**Figure 5**).

¹ Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.

² Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*.

³ Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State; number of trade events equates to one or several tagged fish.

Additional details by EU-Member State are provided in the **Attachment to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

Verifications

In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, as part of the standard procedure for validation, the control authorities perform verifications and crosschecks of all relevant documents including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. Consistent with the EU legislation, the control authorities perform physical verifications and inspections at landing, in the market inside and at the entry in EU Member States based on risk assessment, and all catches are officially weighed at landing.

At the point of exit and entry from and into EU, verifications include crosschecks of eBCDs with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Imports into the European Union follow customs procedures.

All eBCD subject to validation were crosschecked. Even when validation is not required, the control authorities perform crosschecks with catch declarations and the eBCDs information in conjunction with other Member States concerned, which enables efficient monitoring of operations exempted from validation. In addition, the control authorities verify the validation of catch or tags details and analyse the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks, and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable Member States to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for crosscheck and verification.

Trade evolution over last 5 years

Taking into consideration the eBCD data over the past five years (2019-2023) a similar picture emerges compared to the trade data from 2023. As shown in **Figures 6 and 7**, Inter (between) EU MS trade represented on average 17% (range 15-23%) and 9% of total tons traded (range 6-12%). In contrast, the export volumes destined for outside the EU account for 7% on average (4-9%) and 65% (62-68%) of total export volumes. Intra (within) MS trade has the highest number of trades on average 76% (67-81%), covering across the years 26% (25-31%) of total weight traded.

When specifically considering the total trade events over time, 56-59% of trade was exempted through the derogations under 5b, 5d or was trade between MS. **Table 1** shows that of the exempted trade that covered around 19k and 32k events a year, the derogation 5b made of 18-39% of the three exemption clauses.

Table 2 visualises the total weight of trade events that were discussed in **Table 1**. The share of exempted trades in terms of volume for the three exemptions ranged from 17-29% over the past five years. Of the exempted trades, the 5b derogated trades represented between 9-31% of the weight. In absolute numbers, the average trade under exemption 5b was 80kg in 2021 and 2023 as mentioned before, similar to 2022 with 90kg. In 2019 and 2020 the mean was 20kg for intra MS trade.

Conclusion

The number of trades concerned by the derogation in para 5b of Recommendation 18-12 is significant but generally involves small quantities of Bluefin tuna as it involves fillet (FL) and other (OT) presentations only. Additionally, 78% of the trades recorded by EU are internal trades within EU Member States contributing to the traceability of the fish through the chain.

The derogation under para 5b of Recommendation 22-16 removes a significant administrative burden related to validation and contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs and is also consistent with the principle of free market inside of the EU. It is important to note that since this derogation was granted to the EU there is no information on a possible negative impact of these measures on the traceability of BFT products.

Table 1. Total Trade Events and exemptions 2019-2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total trade events	102,711	118,860	145,099	140,634	189,151
Exempt	57,197	69,376	86,100	79,083	107,031
% Exempt in total (5b & 5d and intra MS trade)	56%	58%	59%	56%	57%
Exempt 5b	22,170	25,562	19,851	14,432	32,203
% exempted 5b on total trade exempt	39%	37%	23%	18%	30%

Table 2. Total weight of trade and exemptions 2019-2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total weight (t)	29,956	38,729	46,668	39,501	50,249
Exempted weight (t)	5,352	6,634	13,404	7,464	8,656
% Exempt of total weight (t) (5b & 5d, intra MS trade)	18%	17%	29%	19%	17%
Exempt 5b weight (t)	455	615	1,650	1,246	2,701
% 5b of exempted weight (t)	9%	9%	12%	17%	31%
Avg. weight (t) per 5b exempted trade	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.09	0.08

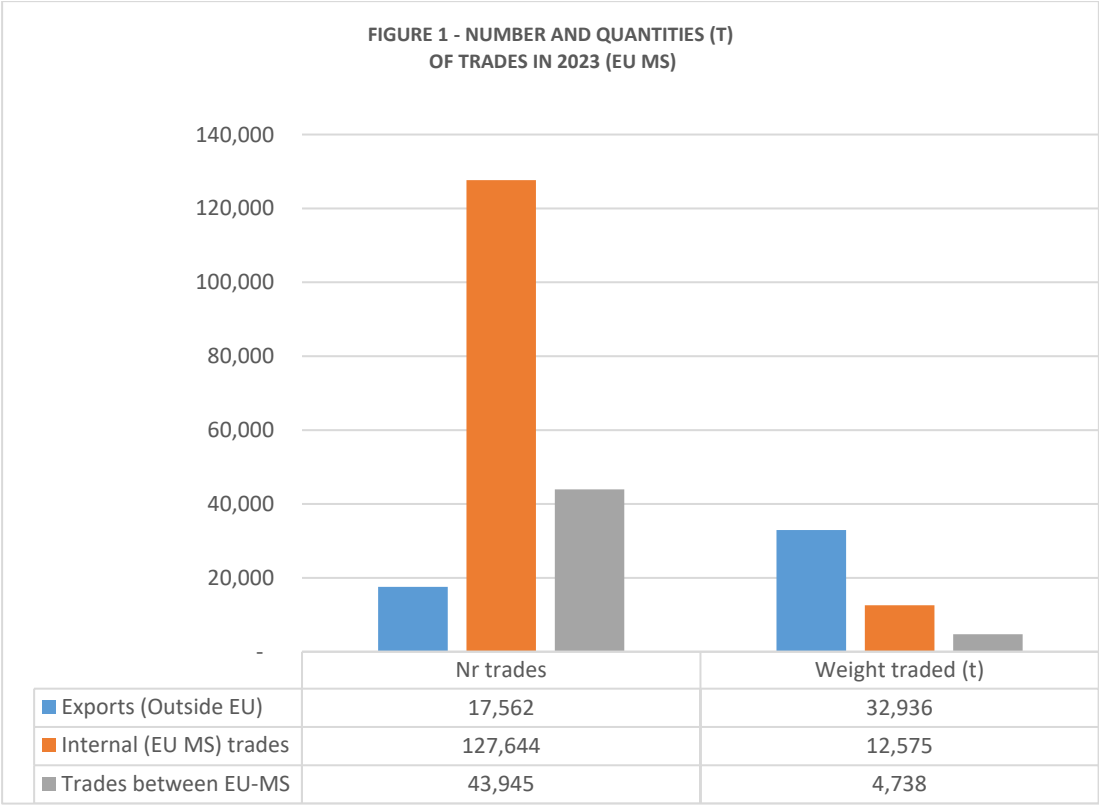


Figure 1. Number and quantities (t) of trades in 2023 (EU MS).

Exports: trades from the EU to other CPCs. Trades between EU-MS: trades between EU Member States. Internal trades: trades inside EU Member States territories.

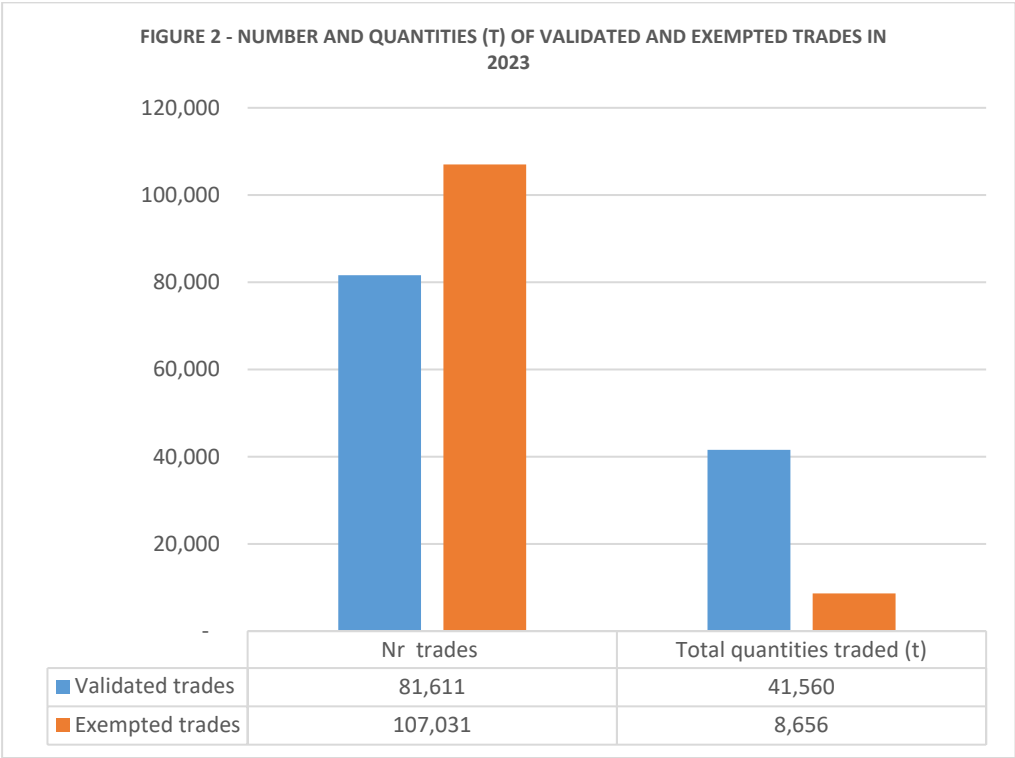


Figure 2. Number and quantities (t) of validated and exempted trades in 2023.

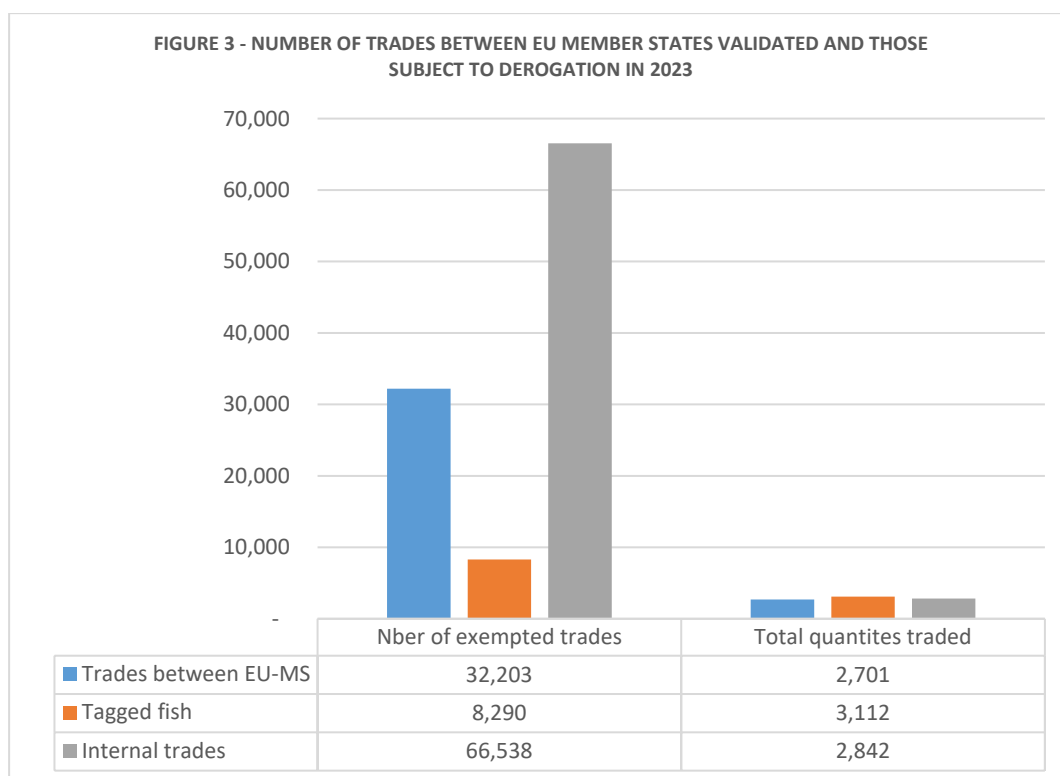


Figure 3. Number of trades between EU Member States validated and those subject to derogation in 2023.

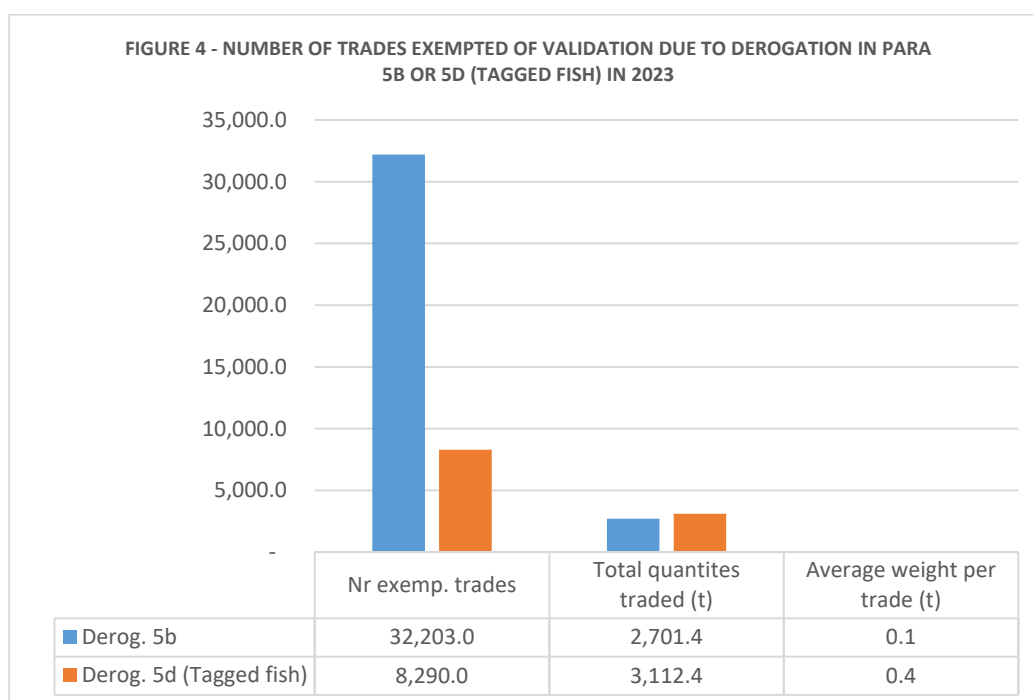


Figure 4. Number of trades exempted of validation due to derogation in para 5b or 5d (tagged fish) in 2023.

Note: trades exempted of validation due to derogation 5b do not include trades with tagged fish. Trades with tagged fish concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.

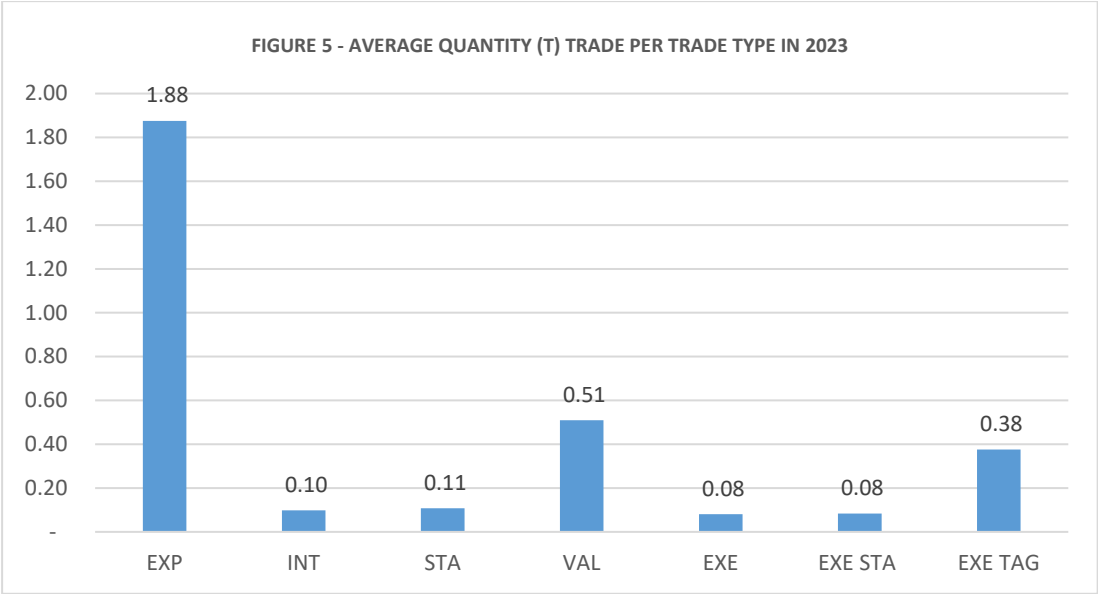


Figure 5. Average quantity (t) trade per trade type in 2023.

EXP (trades from the EU to other CPCs), STA (trades between EU Member States), INT (internal trades inside EU Member States territories), VAL (trades validated), EXE (trades exempted of validation), EXE STA (trades between EU Member States exempted of validation – derogation 5b), EXE TAG (exempted trades of tagged fish note: see footnote (3))

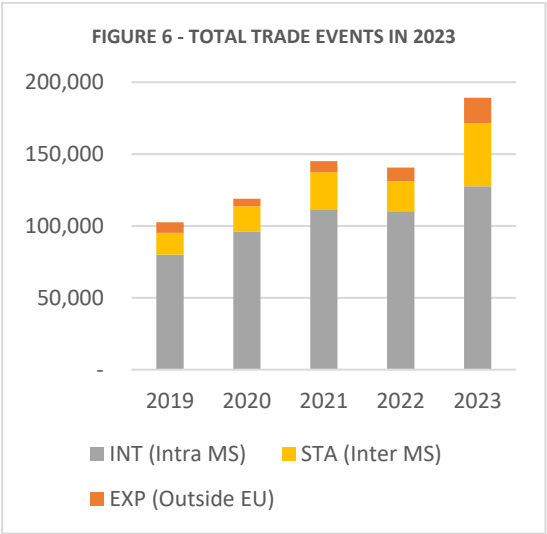


Figure 6. Total trade events in 2023.

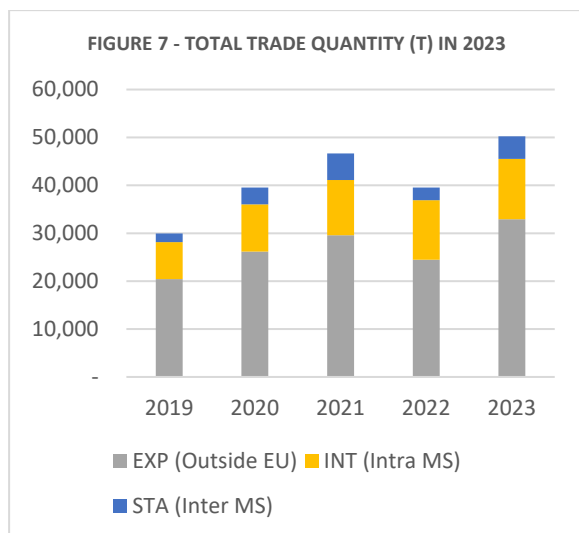


Figure 7. Total trade quantity (t) in 2023.

Attachment to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Details by EU Member State

(1) Total number and weight of trades:

	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
Trade events	135	76,624	27,876	4,900	3,050	70,354	2,250	3,962
Weight (t)	94	19,775	1,986	421	3,443	3,408	20,187	936

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE) was used:

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXE	Trades	-	14,241	207	1,182	68	365	1,403	96
	(t)	-	10,189	5	58	3,251	31	19,161	242

(3) Number and amount of tonnage of trades exempted of validation subject to derogation in para 5b (STA) and trades involving tagged fish (TAG):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXE STA	Trades	93	12,853	7,513	2,690	68	8,207	-	779
	(t)	92	1,031	768	293	5	480	-	32
EXE TAG	Trades	35	3,486	3,625	1,143	1	-	-	-
	(t)	96	1,297	1,354	366	0	-	-	-

(4) Exports from the EU to other CPCs (EXP):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXP	Trades	-	14,241	207	1,182	68	365	1,403	96
	(t)	-	10,189	5	58	3,251	31	19,161	242

(5) Total volume of trades between EU Member States not including internal trades (STA):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
STA	Trades	95	18,251	8,471	2,703	624	11,001	516	2,284
	(t)	92	2,001	865	295	37	843	124	481

(6) Internal trades inside Member States territories (INT):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
INT	Trades	40	44,132	19,198	1,015	2,358	58,988	331	1,582
	(t)	2	7,585	1,115	67	155	2,534	902	213

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS)
Possible priorities, implementation strategies and tentative workplan
(submitted by the PWG Chair)

1. Workplan for 2025-2027

<i>Task</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Tentative Schedule</i>
Develop templates & guidelines for the preparation of domestic programs and reporting of results (para 13-15 Rec. 23-18)	Create and update templates or protocols as required	Finalise in 2025 (IMM) and as required
Review domestic programs (para 17 Rec. 23-18)	Review CPC EMS Domestic programmes Discuss, clarify and agree timeline for reviewing CPC EMS programs and reporting of the results (including in the Annual Reports)	2025 (IMM) and PWG 2025 and as required
Review EMS minimum standards as needed (para 20 of Rec. 23-18)	Review and advise standards including new annexes and/or guidelines to cover cases other than PS and LLS	2026
Keep abreast of practical experiences and technological developments on EMS	Compilation of relevant work by other RFMOs Repository with relevant reports and papers	Compilation of relevant work by other RFMOs: - end 2022 Repository with relevant reports and papers: - end 2022 In general: - recurrent
Continue to advance and support the use of EMS in ICCAT fisheries, including the potential use of EMS to assist monitoring in small-scale and artisanal fisheries	Possible suggestions of new EMS projects	In general, recurrent
Explore coordination and synergies between the monitoring, control, surveillance (MCS), and scientific applications of EMS		Item for discussion at every WG-EMS meeting

Clarifications requested on PWG matters and responses from CPCs

(previously presented as Appendix 7 to the Report of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM))

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
1. Access Agreements	<p>1.1 Para 5 of the Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements (Rec. 14-07) stipulates that: <i>Flag CPCs and coastal CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall provide a summary of the activities carried out pursuant to each agreement, including all catches made pursuant to these agreements, in their annual report to the Commission.</i></p> <p>A question has been raised regarding the reporting period which the summary should cover; e.g. should those agreements which concluded in 2022 be reported through the Annual Report submitted in 2023, or should partial reporting for 2023 also be included. Given that in most cases the information contained in Annual Reports refers to year previous to the</p>	The Secretariat requests confirmation that information submitted in 2023 should contain 2022 data, and that partial reporting for the year in course is not required.	The EU confirms that information submitted in 2023 should contain 2022 data, and that partial reporting for the year in course is not required.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	<p>The Secretariat is correct that a CPC must provide the information for the previous year in their Annual Reports (i.e., for 2024 report, info on 2023 access agreements must be reported). A CPC can also, at its discretion, provide information on the current year (i.e., providing available info on 2024 access agreements in its 2024 Annual Report).</p> <p>Nothing in the rules precludes a CPC from providing the most up to date info available, and the Commission can benefit from information that is as up to date as possible.</p>	Only data for the previous year need be reported, but if CPCs wish to do so, they may also send data for the year in course. [Note from Secretariat: separate forms for each year would be preferred].

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	report being submitted, the Secretariat believes that the former is correct and that only information on access agreements which concluded the year before would be required. Confirmation of this is requested.					
	<p>1.2 Advice regarding the three points detailed below is also requested to establish clear principles to guide report completion.</p> <p>i) In CP39A, the "Number of Vessels - No Vessels" is interpreted as the count of vessels holding licenses to target ICCAT species in a given year. It is worth noting that the EU Sustainable Fisheries Partners Agreement (SFPA) also specifies a maximum number of vessels that can operate within each category/gear. However, this maximum number does not necessarily match the actual number of licensed vessels. Reporting the number of vessels with licenses is more informative than the maximum potential, and</p>	Confirmation that the Commission agrees with the statements in bold is requested.	The EU can confirm the statements in bold.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	The United States agrees with the Secretariat regarding the importance of reporting the number of vessels actually permitted/licensed to fish under an access agreement in a given year. However, we understand CP39A to be the form through which paragraphs 1 and 3 of Rec. 14-07 are fulfilled, regarding information about the agreement itself. As such, the requirement in para 1 refers to the number of vessels authorized by the agreement, rather than the actual number of vessels with such a license in a given year. The number of vessels actually licensed to fish under	The maximum number of vessels may be included at the time of first reporting (prior to beginning fishing activities, para 1 of Rec. 14-07), if this could be greater than licensed vessels but only actually licensed vessels should be reported in the annual summary information in para 5 of Rec. 14-07 .

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	thus, reporting the former is recommended. Confirmation of this from PWG is requested.				the agreement in a given year is to be reported under form CP39B, which we understand to be the form through which para. 5 of Rec. 14-07 is fulfilled.	
	ii) In CP39B, the "Number of Vessels - No Vessels" should include all vessels licensed to target ICCAT species that were active during the given year. The same logic applies to reporting catches; only catches from vessels listed in the "Number of Vessels - No Vessels" column should be reported. This approach excludes bycatches of ICCAT species that may have been caught by vessels licensed for fisheries other than ICCAT species. Confirmation of this from PWG is requested.	Confirmation that the Commission agrees with the statements in bold is requested	The EU can confirm the statements in bold.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	The United States concurs with the Secretariat that bycatch by vessels not part of the access agreement do not need to be reported pursuant to Rec. 14-07 , but they should be reported through other means and counted against the relevant CPC's quota for that species.	By-catch of ICCAT species by vessels not operating under an access agreement specifically involving ICCAT species does not need to be reported through CP39 (but should be included in Task 1 data and compliance tables as appropriate).

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	iii) Lastly, in CP39B, it is important to clarify that the quota refers specifically to the CPC quota and not to any other catch limit or catch reference associated with a species in a given agreement.	Confirmation that the Commission agrees with the statements in bold is requested	The EU can confirm the statements in bold.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	The United States appreciates the Secretariat's efforts to bring light to CP39B. It is important to clarify that the quota refers specifically to the fishing CPC's ICCAT quota and not to any other catch limit or catch reference associated with a species in a given agreement, as catches under an access agreement count toward the quota of the CPC to which the fishing vessels are flagged, not the quota of the coastal CPC that is allowing foreign vessels to fish in its waters.	All catches under an access agreement count toward the quota of the fishing CPC.
2. Transshipment declarations	2.1 The Secretariat would like clarification as to which transshipment declarations should be submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 21 of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment</i> (Rec. 21-15).	Confirmation that the Secretariat's understanding of the statement in bold is requested.	The EU agrees that only at-sea transshipment declarations, (and not in-port transshipment declarations) should be sent to ICCAT.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	We concur with the Secretariat	Only at-sea transshipment declarations, and NOT in-port transshipment declarations, should be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat.

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	<p>The Secretariat has understood that this related only to at-sea transshipment declarations, and that in-port transshipment declarations should be sent only to the CPC authorities as indicated in paragraph 3.3 of Appendix 3 of Rec. 21-15. However, one CPC has indicated that their understanding of paragraph 21 of Rec. 21-15 requires in-port transshipment declarations to be sent also to the Secretariat. Given the quantity of these, and the fact that not all CPCs send in-port transshipment declarations, clarification as to whether or not these should be sent is needed. This interpretation was endorsed by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and confirmation of PWG is not requested.</p>					

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	<p>2.ii) The Secretariat is of the opinion that the declarations referred to in Rec. 21-15 are those which relate to ICCAT species or taken in conjunction with ICCAT fisheries.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the Secretariat continues to receive declarations and associated documentation (e.g., pre-transshipment notification) relating to non-ICCAT species (e.g., squid) from vessels which are not on the ICCAT Record. Confirmation is sought that these documents are not required and should not be sent to the Secretariat. This interpretation was endorsed by IMM and confirmation of PWG is not requested.</p>	Confirmation that the Secretariat's understanding of the statement in bold is requested.	ii) The EU agrees that only declarations related to ICCAT species or species caught in association with these species should be sent to ICCAT.	Japan shares the same view as the Secretariat.	We concur with the Secretariat	<p>Only declarations related to ICCAT species or species caught in association with these species should be sent to ICCAT.</p> <p>Transshipment declarations which do not contain ICCAT species or are not taken by vessels involved in ICCAT fisheries should NOT be sent.</p>
3. Supply declarations	According to paragraph 23 of Rec. 21-15: A separate supply declaration is not required when the supply activity is conducted in association with transshipment that is monitored by an ICCAT Regional Observer. As ICCAT ROP observers	The Secretariat believes that the submission of supply declarations from carriers on which a Regional Observer is embarked is not necessary.	The EU's reading of paragraph 23 ICCAT Rec. 21-15 is that the supply declaration is always necessary unless the supply operation is made in association with a	We support the view that a supply declaration is not required for supply activities associated with transshipment of non-ICCAT species, with the presence of an ICCAT	The United States interprets Rec. 21-15 as not requiring a separate supply declaration if recorded by an ICCAT observer when ICCAT species are being transhipped. However, para. 23 requires that a supply declaration from	The Secretariat's original interpretation is not fully correct; an at-sea supply declaration is required if an observer is on board but the supply is not being observed (i.e. - not in association with an ICCAT

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
	<p>include all supply transshipments which they witness, clarification is sought as to whether supply declarations are required to be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat if no ICCAT species are being transhipped at the same time, even if an ICCAT observer is on board, or whether the monitoring by an ICCAT observer is sufficient.</p> <p>The Secretariat would also like to note that many CPCs are not using the ICCAT format for supply declarations, which makes it difficult to identify these and to ensure they are correctly processed. The use of the correct format, or the inclusion of M:GEN41 (or CP54) in the title of the email would greatly facilitate this.</p>	Confirmation of this understanding is requested.	transshipment operation (immediately before or after), and that these operations are monitored by the ICCAT Regional Observer. A supply operation that is not associated with a transshipment operation would therefore require the supply declaration to be sent to ICCAT.	<p>observer. In accordance with paragraph 23 of Rec. 21-15, in the case of supply activities not involving transshipment, a supply declaration is required even if an ICCAT observer is on board. Our understanding is as follows.</p> <p>(Condition) A supply activity happens: with ICCAT observer on-board carrier vessel →No (SD required) →Yes (below) in association with transshipment →No (SD required) →Yes (below) transshipment of ICCAT species →No (SD not required) →Yes (SD not required)</p>	<p>the Master is required in other circumstances, including when an ICCAT observer is onboard the vessel but the supply transshipment does not take place during transshipment of ICCAT species. In other words, the effect of the last sentence of para. 23 is to eliminate the requirement applicable to the master when it is redundant – that is, when the regional observer records the supply transshipment as part its monitoring of the transshipment of ICCAT species.</p>	<p>transshipment). Therefore, supply declarations for all supply activities involving carrier vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels are required unless they take place in association with a transshipment monitored by an ICCAT Regional Observer.</p>

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>Conclusion</i>
4. IUU Cross Listing	When there is discrepancy between the information from two different Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) which cross list with ICCAT, the Secretariat seeks confirmation as to whether the information provided by the RFMO which originally listed the vessel should be taken as valid, even if the second RFMO provides additional information? Or should such additional information be included on the ICCAT Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) list even when provided by an RFMO which was not the original lister of the vessel.	The Secretariat believes that information provided by the RFMO which originally listed the vessel should be taken as valid, even if the second RFMO provides additional information. Confirmation of this understanding is requested.	The EU would urge the ICCAT Secretariat that when receiving an update from a RFMO which is not the original one or upon noticing discrepancies between two lists, it forwards the update to the original RFMO and request that the Secretariat concerned check the additional information. If found to be valid, the information should be included.	Such additional information should be included on the ICCAT Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) list even when provided by an RFMO which was not the original lister of the vessel" because more information on IUU vessels is useful for monitoring and inspection purposes. Information provided by an RFMO that is not the original lister can be included in ICCAT's IUU list as "additional information" or "notes".	The United States believes that all available, relevant information should help inform ICCAT's listing and delisting decisions; so we interpret Rec. 21-13 to support use of both RFMO's data to inform ICCAT's listing decisions. Where ICCAT cross-lists a vessel but the information differs across two RFMO IUU vessel lists, the information from the original listing RFMO should control, but the information from the other RFMO might be highly relevant as well. For example, one RFMO might have more timely updated a change of Flag than the other one. The United States suggests the Secretariat include both pieces of conflicting information but notes in parentheses from which RFMO the information originates.	From the responses, it seems that there is a general preference for the additional information to be included, even when coming from a different source than the original and this resulting in discrepancies among lists. [Note from Secretariat: the IUU vessel list has been constructed as a data base, and hence the option suggested by USA is not really feasible without restructuring, and may lead to confusion. Further discussion/guidance would be required to consider this option. The Secretariat would also like to urge the Commission to support any cross-organizational initiatives which aim to unify and centralise the information in the IUU list, as all RFMO Secretariats have noted the increasing burden and difficulties in maintaining coherence under the current system].

IUU Vessel List

For more details and historical data, please consult the [full IUU Vessel List](#).

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20040005	BRAVO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	T8AN3	Unknown		Unknown
20040006	OCEAN DIAMOND	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20040007	MADURA 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		(P.T. PROVISIT)
20040008	MADURA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		(P.T. PROVISIT)
20050001	SOUTHERN STAR 136	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED
20060001	BIGEYE	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	FN 003883	Unknown		Unknown
20060002	MARIA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	FN 003882	Unknown		Unknown
20060003	FREEDOM 7	Cameroon	Longline	JVAW7	7302548		INTERA COMPANY SA (IMO Company No. 5942421)
20060004	MELILLA NO. 103	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060005	MELILLA NO. 101	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060007	LILA NO. 10	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060008	NO 2 CHOYU	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060009	ACROS NO. 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060010	ACROS NO. 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20060011	NO. 3 CHOYU	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20060012	ORIENTE NO.7	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20080001	DANIAA	Unclassified flag	Longline	3X07QMC	Unknown		ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)
20080004	SHARON 1	Unclassified flag	Purse seine	Unknown	Unknown		MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company
20080005	GALA I	Unclassified flag	Purse seine	Unknown	Unknown		MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company
20090001	XING HAI FENG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	3FHW5	7826233		Ocean Lion Shipping SA
20090002	YU MAAN WON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20090003	GUNUAR MELYN 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20100004	HOOM XIANG 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.
20110003	NEPTUNE	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.
20110011	BHASKARA NO. 10	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110012	BHASKARA NO.9	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110013	CAMELOT	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20110014	SAGE	Unclassified flag	Longline	C5J82	7825215		Song Maw Fishery S.A.
20130001	FU LIEN NO 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7355662		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia
20130002	YU FONG 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	BJ4786	Unknown		Mr. Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)
20130003	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	OTS024 OTS089	Unknown		Unknown
20130004	FULL RICH	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HMEK3	Unknown		Noel International LTD
20130005	DRAGON III	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Reino de Mar S.A
20130006	GOIDAU RUEY NO. 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	HO-2508	Unknown		Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20130007	JYI LIH 88	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130008	ORCA	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130009	REYMAR 6	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20130010	TA FU 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	Unknown	9259070		Unknown
20130011	TCHING YE NO. 6	Unclassified flag	Longline	V3GN	Unknown		Bluefin S.A.
20130012	WEN TENG NO. 688	Unclassified flag	Longline	V3TK4	8994295		Unknown
20130013	SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18	Indonesia	Longline	YGGY	Unknown		Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger
20150001	ANEKA 228	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150002	ANEKA 228; KM.	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150003	CHI TONG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150004	FU HSIANG FA 18	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150005	FU HSIANG FA NO 01	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150006	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150007	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150008	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150009	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150010	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150011	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150012	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150013	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20150014	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150015	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150016	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150017	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150018	HOOM XIANG 101	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150019	HOOM XIANG 103	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150020	HOOM XIANG 105	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150021	KIM SENG DENG 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150022	KUANG HSING 127	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150023	KUANG HSING 196	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150024	ASIAN WARRIOR	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	J8B5336	7322897		High Mountain Overseas S.A
20150025	MAAN YIH HSING	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150026	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150027	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150028	SHUEN SIANG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150029	SIN SHUN FA 6	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150030	SIN SHUN FA 67	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20150031	SIN SHUN FA 8	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150032	SIN SHUN FA 9	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150033	PESCACISNE 1 PESCACISNE 2	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	9LU2119	9319856		Eastern Holdings
20150034	SRI FU FA 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150035	SRI FU FA 18	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150036	SRI FU FA 188	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150037	SRI FU FA 189	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150038	SRI FU FA 286	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150039	SRI FU FA 67	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150040	SRI FU FA 888	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150041	TIAN LUNG NO. 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150042	ABUNDANT 12	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 202	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi/Mendez Francisco Delos Reyes
20150043	ABUNDANT 9	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 222	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon
20150044	ABUNDANT 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 201	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi Huang Wen Hsin
20150045	YI HONG 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20150046	ABUNDANT 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 226	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi
20150047	ATLANTIC WIND	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5IM813	9042001		High Mountain Overseas S.A
20160001	NEW BAI I NO. 168	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	YGMY	Unknown		Shin Pao K ONG Winniw Tsengi

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20170013	ABUNDANT 6	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 221	Unknown		Huang Jia Yi / Huang Wen Hsin
20170014	SHENG JI QUN 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 311	Unknown		Chang Lin
20170015	SHUN LAI	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 514	Unknown		Lee Cheng Chung
20170016	YUTUNA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 212	Unknown		Yen Shih Hsiung
20170017	YUTUNA NO. 1	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPA 302	Unknown		Tseng Ming Tsai
20180002	MARWAN 1	Somalia	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20180003	PROGRESO	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20180004	SEA VIEW	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	8692342		Unknown
20180005	SEA WIND	Cameroon	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	8692354		Unknown
20190001	CHOTCHAINAVEE 35	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		GREEN LAUREL INTERNATIONAL SARL
20190002	COBIJA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	CPB3000	7330399		Unknown
20190003	AMORINN	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5VAN9	7036345		Unknown
20190004	ANTONY	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	PQMG	7236634		Atlanti Pez
20190005	BAROON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5IM376	9037537		Vero Shipping Corporation
20190006	CHALLENGE	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HO5381	6622642		Advantage Company S.A. (Mar de Neptuno S. A.)
20190007	GOOD HOPE	Nigeria	Unclassified (unknown)	5NMU	7020126		Port Plus Ltd
20190008	JINZHANG	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	PQBT	6607666	49	Belfast Global S.A.

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20190009	HEAVY SEA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	3ENF8	7322926		Barroso Fish S.A.
20190010	KOOSHA 4	Iran	Unclassified (unknown)	9BQK	7905443		Pars Paya Seyd Industrial Fish
20190011	LIMPOPO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7388267		Alos Company Ghana Ltd
20190012	NORTHERN WARRIOR	Angola	Unclassified (unknown)	PJSA	8808903		Orkiz Agro-Pecuaria, Pescas, Transportes E Comercio Geral, Limitada
20190013	PERLON	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	5NTV21	5062479		Americagalaica S.A.
20190014	SEA URCHIN	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7424891		Farway Shipping
20190015	STS-50	Togo	Unclassified (unknown)	5VDR2	8514772		Marine Fisheries Corp. Co. Ltd
20200001	ALBORAN II	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7306570		Unknown
20200003	GORILERO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	6719419		Unknown
20200004	IANNIS I	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	H03374	7332218		Unknown
20200005	LABIKO	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7325746		Unknown
20200006	MURTOSA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7385174		Unknown
20200008	OKAPI MARTA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7816472		Unknown
20200009	TRINITY	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	7321374		Unknown
20200010	OCEAN STAR N° 2	Unclassified flag	Longline	YJRU6	8665193		Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD
20210001	IMULA 0730 KLT	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	4SF4482	Unknown		Unknown
20210002	IMULA 0846 KLT	Sri Lanka	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20210003	IMUL-A-1028-TLE	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20210004	IND-TN-15- MM8297	India	Longline	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20210005	NIKA	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	HP6686	8808654		Jiho Shiping Ltd.
20210006	ISRAR 1	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BB5	8004076		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210007	ISRAR 2	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BA3	8568694		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210008	ISRAR 3	Unclassified flag	Longline	A4BA5	8568682		Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179
20210009	ABISHAK PUTHA 3	Unclassified flag	Unclassified (unknown)	4SFXXXX	Unknown		Unknown
20210010	EL SHADDAI	South Africa	Unclassified (unknown)	ZR6358	8025082		Braxton Security Services CC
20220001	AVEMARIYA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	20,9	Jerin Charles B/O Bosco
20220002	LITTLESHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220003	MANGALA	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		PMMN CHATHURANGA
20220004	NOVA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220005	YONA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown
20220006	LUCAS	Gambia	Unclassified (unknown)	C5J128	9038402	52,99	"Unknown" or "HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL"
20220008	KIKI	Gambia	Unclassified (unknown)	6WMP	7929176	43	Unkown
20230001	AKASH	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,4	WILLIAM S/O MANUVELPILLAI
20230002	ANNAI VELAMKANNI	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,2	D. WILSON
20230003	ARPUTHA MATHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	20	SALBIN S/O CLEETUS

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20230004	BENEDICTA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	20,8	PAUL SURGEN J
20230005	EASRON	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	17,28	MR JELASTIN
20230006	EL SHADAI	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,42	REJIKUMAR S/O SILUVAIYAN
20230007	EMMANUEL	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	19,2	SASIKUMAR
20230008	GIFT OF GOD	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18	ANTHONY ROBERT T
20230009	SHARJI AMMA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18,1	LISTON S/O STEPHEN
20230010	STAR OF THE SEA	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unknown	18,75	SHIBU S/O SILUVAIYAN
20230011	YAHOVA NICY	India	Unclassified (unknown)		Unkown	18,5	NITHIN S/O SESADIMAI,
20230012	HE LI 1 HAO (Sinar Abadi 69)	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Uunkown (HP7651)	8524492		GINSIL HOLDING SINGAPORE Pte
20240001	Kuda Laut 03	Philippines	Unclassified (unknown)	DUM4015	Unknown		Tuna Explorers Incorporated
20240002	HAMBANTOTA EXPRESS	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	4SF5385	Unknown	18,14	MOHAMMAD MILHAN
20240003	AVE MARIA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,85	Xaviour S/O Theouns
20240004	ST ANNES	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,97	Mariya Manoj S/O Swamynathan
20240005	ST MARYS	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,65	REJIN
20240006	SEA ANGEL 2	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,7	Anthony Raj S/O Micheal Nayagam
20240007	ST ANTONY	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	15,42	Seema W/O Marbin
20240008	MOTHER OF JESUS	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	17,3	Robert Bruce S/O Benjamin
20240009	MARIYAL	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown

<i>ICCATID</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>FlagIUU</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>IRCS</i>	<i>IMONo</i>	<i>LOAm</i>	<i>OwnerName</i>
20240010	MANJUMATHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	17,71	Simon Bastin
20240011	MANJU MATHA	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	19,45	Simon Bastin
20240012	GODS GIFT	India	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	17,85	Darvin S/O Deniston
20240013	IMULA2159CHW & SANJANA PUTHA	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	15,01	W.P. S JANSA
20240014	IMULA0867KLT & SAMPATH	Sri Lanka	Unclassified (unknown)	Unknown	Unknown	13,95	M.S.S.F. JAYASOORIYA

Introduction

For this year, the List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities has been extracted from the ICCAT IUU databases. It contains two complementary structures: 1) the current database and 2) the historical database, as also shown on the [ICCAT webpage](#).

Explanatory Notes to the 2024 IUU List

Within the framework of implementation of paragraph 11 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-13 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities* (Rec. 23-16)

Intersessional incorporation of IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs

As provided for in the [Rec. 23-16](#), the nine RFMOs and their IUU vessel lists are as follows:

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

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

**Summary of cross-referenced 2024 IUU vessel lists
and updates/modifications made**

<i>Nine RFMOs</i>	<i>Incorporation in the ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from the IUU List</i>	<i>Changes made to the ICCAT IUU List from other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs (in databases)</i>	<i>No change or minor modifications</i>	<i>Total actions</i>
Total	14	0	0	150	164

The 2024 ICCAT IUU List of vessels contains **164** active vessels.

Information on the 2024 ICCAT IUU List of vessels

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

1. The WCPFC communicated on 6 February 2024 (ICCAT Entrada # E24-01213) the inclusion in its IUU List of the vessel *Kuda Laut 03* / IRCS DUM4015, currently flagged to the Philippines, bringing to 4 the total number of vessels included in the list of this RFMO. Since no objection was received from ICCAT CPCs, following the Circular of 9 February 2024 (ICCAT No. S24-01252) containing this information, this IUU vessel was included by cross-listing in the ICCAT IUU List of vessels. The ICCAT IUU serial number assigned to it is 20240001, as shown on the [ICCAT webpage](#).
2. Thirteen IUU vessels have been included by cross-listing in the ICCAT IUU List of vessels based on the IOTC communication received by the Secretariat on 23 May 2024 (E24-05837). Since no objection was received from ICCAT CPCs, following the Circular of 24 June 2024 (ICCAT No. S24-06385) containing this information, these 13 IUU vessels were included by cross-listing in the ICCAT IUU List of vessels. The ICCAT IUU serial numbers assigned to them are from 20240002 to 20240014, as shown on the [ICCAT webpage](#).

B. Issues related to the final ICCAT IUU list that were raised during 2024

According to the provisions of paragraph 2 of [Rec. 23-16](#), CPCs shall transmit every year to the Secretariat, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information, and at 2 September 2024, the Secretariat had not received any communication.

C. In addition to the above, issues related to the final ICCAT IUU list were raised during 2024, concerning vessels already on the IUU list

In accordance with paragraph 3 of [Rec. 23-16](#) and further to ICCAT Circular No. S24-09496 of 17 September 2024, Costa Rica submitted on 10 October 2024 (E24-12180) a request that its flag no longer be linked to the two IUU vessels *Dragon III* and *Tching Ye No. 6*, with ICCAT IUU Nos. 20130005 and 20130011, respectively (see **Addendums 1 and 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**). The response on this subject sent by the Secretariat to Costa Rica (S24-10701 and S24-11011 of 14 and 22 October 2024) indicated that these two IUU vessels had originally been included in 2013 in the ICCAT IUU list by cross-referencing with the IUU list of the IATTC (E13-06833 of 20 August 2013, then E19-08746 of 17 September 2019), as shown on its webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html> and <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/Vessel-register>).

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

Government of Costa Rica
Costa Rica Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Executive Presidency

9 October 2024
INCOPESCA-PE-1193-2024

Mr Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
info@iccat.int

Dear sir,

I have the honour to address you in reference to the request made through Circular No. 09496/24 regarding the Draft 2024 ICCAT List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. I hereby transmit Official Communication No. INCOPESCA-PE-DOPA-128-2024, signed by Mr Miguel Duran Delgado, Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, in response to the request contained in the Circular referred to above.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of INCOPESCA, Costa Rica, to improve its fisheries management on a daily basis, to comply with the ICCAT Recommendations and to collaborate in any way we can. Furthermore, we are fully prepared to provide any additional clarification that may be required with respect to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

(signed and sealed)

Eng. Nelson Peña Navarro, MSc.
Executive President
INCOPESCA

Cc: incopescaICCAT@incopesca.go.crr
Archive MLA

Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

Government of Costa Rica
Costa Rica Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Executive Presidency
Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

8 October 2024
INCOPESCA-PE-1193-2024

Mr
Eng. Nelson Pena Navarro
Executive President
INCOPESCA

Dear sir,

In response to Circular No. 094996/24 of the ICCAT Executive Secretary, regarding the Draft 2024 ICCAT List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, after an exhaustive review of the information provided by Mr Julio Dijeres Bonilla, Head of the Department of Record, comparing the physical records kept by the Department and the national electronic records stored in SISPA, I would like to inform of the following:

— On the Historical List of IUU Vessels

The vessel named *El Diria I* appears in the list, which is apparently linked to Costa Rica in the *FlagIUU* column. However, after a detailed review, we have found no information or indications to suggest that this vessel is or was part of our fleet, or that it has any relationship with our country. Official records do not contain any evidence to confirm such a connection, and there is no record of its operation in our jurisdictional waters or under the Costa Rican flag. Unless further information or concrete evidence is provided to us to justify this association, we consider it appropriate to formally request RFMOs to decouple the information on this vessel from Costa Rica.

— On the IUU List

This list includes the vessels named *Dragon III* and *Tching Ye No. 6* which are apparently associated with Costa Rica in the *OwnerPlaceRegistration* column. However, upon review, there is no evidence in our records linking these vessels to Costa Rica. It has not been found that this vessel is or was part of our fleet, or that it has any relationship with our country. Nor have we identified any links with vessel owners or companies registered in Costa Rica that could sustain such relationship. Given that there is no documentation to support this association, we recommend that RFMOs be requested to eliminate any connection between these vessels and our country, unless new information is presented that warrants this.

I appreciate your attention,

Yours sincerely,

(signed and sealed)

Mr Miguel Durán Delgado
Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

CC: Archive

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For more information and a complete list of ICCAT publications, please see www.iccat.int

It is suggested that this report be cited in either of the following manners: ICCAT, 2025. Report for Biennial Period, 2024-25, Part I, Vol. 1,pp.; or (Author), (Title of paper). In ICCAT, 2025, Report for Biennial Period, 2024-25, Part I, Vol. 1, (pages).