Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4
(online, 7 and 8 July 2026)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr Amar Ouchelli (Algeria), opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Secretariat informed that 22 CPCs and one observer from an intergovernmental organization participated, as well as 10 observers from non-governmental organizations. The ICCAT Secretariat also explained the arrangements for the online meeting, as well as the two 30-minute breaks during the meeting.

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms Amira Tamourt (Algeria), State Engineer, was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Panel agreed to focus its discussions primarily on billfishes, following a suggestion from the United States. It was agreed to present the document "Discussion paper on the excess harvest penalty calculation in paragraph 3b of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05)" immediately after document titled "Application of over/under-harvest under the provisions of Rec. 19-05, as amended by Rec. 25-06" of the Secretariat, as this sequence would allow the Group to review the calculations relating to the compliance tables before discussing the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05).

The List of participants is included in **Appendix 2**.

4. Review of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) regarding the management of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06)

In the document "Application of over/under-harvest under the provisions of Rec. 19-05, as amended by Rec. 25-06" (**Appendix 3**), the Secretariat presented calculations showing how the 125% penalty in Recommendation 19-05 would be applied to the various CPCs, adding three African CPCs not mentioned in Recommendation 25-06. Several CPCs expressed their objection to the inclusion of CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Recommendation 25-06, namely the developing Caribbean coastal CPCs.

Following these objections, the Chair invited the CPCs concerned to express their needs and, where appropriate, to intervene in order to examine the possibility of adjusting their situation. However, none of these CPCs spoke on this matter. Panel 4 reached a consensus that the exemptions in Recommendation 25-06 should apply only to developing Caribbean coastal States.

The United States also presented the "Discussion paper on the excess harvest penalty calculation in paragraph 3b of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05)" (**Appendix 4**) clarifying and explaining that the 25% penalty should apply only to excess catches of the second consecutive year and not to the entire negative balance, which was supported by several CPCs, including Japan, Costa Rica and Belize. Ultimately, the Panel supported the approach outlined in the document and agreed CPCs should work with the Secretariat to accurately recalculate overages for review by Panel 4 and the Compliance Committee at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

The United States presented the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (**Appendix 5**), to amend Recommendation 19-05, suggesting several changes, namely: clarification on overharvest penalties, transfer mechanisms to facilitate payback, requirements regarding the use of circle hooks to reduce bycatch mortality, and improvements to the bycatch estimation tool.

Several CPCs provided comments on the proposal. Japan expressed reservations regarding the requirement for circle hooks taking into account the characteristics of marlin fisheries where the species may be retained for consumption. While Canada supported most aspects of the proposal, it also raised concerns regarding the applicability of this provision relating to circle hooks. Grenada, for its part, welcomed these requirements, given their recent implementation. Other CPCs also mentioned domestic use of circle hooks in ICCAT fisheries.

The European Union expressed support for the United States initiative to address the implementation issues in the ICCAT management framework of marlins. The EU raised concerns regarding the mandatory use of circle hooks, arguing that this could have a negative impact on the operation of the Atlantic longline fleets while there is no clear scientific recommendation from the SCRS to mandate their use. While recalling that the situation of marlins and sea turtles are different, the EU highlighted that such requirement exists in 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), but that this Recommendation offered alternative measures to be implemented.

The United States responded by noting that Recommendation 19-05 already requires marlins to be released alive and that the measure aims to minimise harm to released fish. As such, the United States considered including circle hooks to be in line with the current measure as the SCRS has documented the decreased injury and mortality associated with such use.

Belize strongly supported the United States proposal regarding transfer mechanisms to facilitate payback and expressed appreciation for the inclusion of new fishing gears. However, Costa Rica requested that a footnote be added stating that excess harvest is only taken into account for Costa Rica from 2025, since it began to be a Contracting Party in 2024. The United States noted that Recommendation 19-05 states that "all other CPCs shall limit their landings" to 10 t for blue marlin and 2 t for white marlin, "CPCs" being defined as including both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties.

Belize then presented the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (**Appendix 6**). This proposal aims to replace Recommendation 19-05 and seeks to modernise conservation measures by incorporating scientific advice, improving implementation and ensuring gear equity for developing coastal States, in particular small island developing States in the Caribbean. Several delegations, including Barbados, Costa Rica, the European Union, Grenada, the United States, expressed their support for the objectives of Belize's proposal, notably recognition of the importance of marlin to local food security and the commitment to a more equitable distribution of conservation burdens. However, some delegations raised questions regarding the implementation arrangements, in particular the practicality of recording of dead/live discards and introduction of a retention ban.

The Panel considered that a document comparing and contrasting the proposals from the United States and Belize could serve as a basis for further work to identify common elements and key differences, as set out in the "Discussion paper on key differences between PA4_04/i2026 and PA4_05/i2026" (**Appendix 7**), submitted by Belize and the United States and presented by the United States.

The main difference between the two proposals concerns the replacement of landing limits with a total allowable catch (TAC) system for marlins. Belize explained that this change would allow dead discards to be included in the calculation of catches and that it would be accompanied by a prohibition on retaining dead marlins, whilst exempting non-industrialized CPCs. Belize also clarified that this approach would require the introduction of a new requirement to report and record dead discards in order to ensure adequate monitoring of catches.

Several CPCs, including Barbados, Canada, Costa Rica and Grenada, supported Belize's proposal, subject to some changes. Japan supported the move to a TAC system, in line with SCRS recommendations, but opposed the prohibition on retention. Canada also expressed its opposition to this measure. The United Kingdom, for its part, raised concerns regarding data collection and the need for bilateral agreements.

Discussions also focused on the procedures for implementation of penalties, as well as on the need to maintain some flexibility for small island developing States. The EU explained that, similarly to Caribbean SIDS, marlins are important for the fisheries of the EU outermost regions and that their situation should be addressed similarly.

The discussion paper also highlighted the language in the U.S. proposal to allow the transfer of quotas between CPCs in order to reduce quota overharvests (debts). This proposal, initially suggested by Costa Rica, received broad support, with several CPCs considering it a relevant solution for improving quota management. The meeting concluded with an agreement to compile all CPC comments through the meeting report in order to continue drafting a consensus Recommendation.

Costa Rica presented its challenges in the document "The situation of Costa Rica as regards excess harvest of Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)" (**Appendix 8**) concerning the implementation of Recommendation 19-05 on catch limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish. It explained that its historical catches exceed the limits currently imposed on it by nearly 500 t. With a catch limit set at just 10 t, payback of this cumulative excess would be impossible under current conditions, as it would require Costa Rica to cease its marlin fishing activities for more than 50 years. Costa Rica therefore requested exemption from the 125% penalty, emphasizing that, even after applying the new adjustments to the calculation of the penalty, payback of the excess would continue to be extremely difficult. The European Union and Belize expressed their support for Costa Rica's position and encouraged other developing coastal States to share their similar experiences in order to contribute to the drafting of a new Recommendation to replace Recommendation 19-05.

Grenada presented the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the proportionate treatment of Grenada regarding billfish management and excess harvest under Recommendation 19-05" (**Appendix 9**) concerning the management of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, highlighting the challenges faced by developing coastal States in implementing the current ICCAT Recommendations. The document proposed temporary relief measures, including exemptions from penalties and the establishment of provisional catch limits.

Barbados presented the management of its marlin fisheries (blue marlin and white marlin) in the document entitled "Situation of Barbados in relation to the marlin fisheries. Description of the fishery" (**Appendix 10**), emphasizing that its catch is unavoidable in the local longline fishery due to their high abundance in the fishing grounds. These species are mainly caught as bycatch and are intended for local consumption. The country also noted that the proliferation of Sargassum has reduced catches of traditional species, thereby increasing the importance of marlin for food security. Barbados outlined recent reforms to its legislative framework, the deployment of electronic monitoring systems on four longline vessels, and its need for higher national quotas.

5. Review of the current status of the experimental use of traplines

5.1 Reporting operational information on the use of traplines

The Secretariat presented the document "Reporting operational information on the use of traplines" (**Appendix 11**); the forms are available on the ICAAT website.

5.2 Early results from experimental use of traplines in ICCAT longline fisheries

The SCRS Chair presented the initial results of the experimental use of trapline in ICCAT longline fisheries. Preliminary analyses indicate that this gear yields higher catch rates, chiefly targeting larger swordfish, and reducing bycatch compared to conventional gear. The SCRS also emphasized that the monitoring and assessment of bycatch associated with this fishery need to be improved. However, uncertainties remain regarding potential consequences this might have on stock assessments and scientific advice.

The European Union emphasized the importance of assessing the robustness of Management Procedures (MPs) to changes in fishing practices within the framework of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). In this regard, it asked whether work was already underway to test the impact of traplines on the performance of the adopted MPs, in particular through the robustness testing carried out as part of the MSEs.

In response, the SCRS Chair indicated that methodological work is indeed underway to assess the impact of the use of trapline on the effectiveness of management measures and the adopted MP. However, the Committee clarified that the development of this line of research would require a formal request from Panel 4, accompanied by a clear definition of priorities. The SCRS explained that the work would have to be done in concomitance with the rest of work programme and according to the available resources.

The Panel Chair encouraged CPCs to continue with the testing and to strengthen data collection until 2028, in order to establish a more robust scientific basis for assessing the effects of traplines on the work of the SCRS, including stock assessments and management advice. He also emphasized the importance of incorporating these analyses into MSE exercises and into robustness testing of management procedures, prior to any formal recommendation to the Commission regarding the possible adoption of trapline.

6. Updates on North swordfish (SWO-N) Management Procedure (MP) and blue shark (BSH) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

6.1 North Atlantic swordfish robustness testing for climate change effects and size limits

The SCRS presented two main topics: (i) robustness testing of MPs against the potential effects of climate change, and (ii) assessment of the effectiveness of minimum size limits in the context of swordfish stock management.

Regarding the first point, the SCRS outlined the approaches being considered to incorporate different climate change scenarios into MSE exercises, in order to assess the robustness of management procedures against potential changes, driven by climate change, in stock productivity, distribution and dynamics. The SCRS Chair also explained the current approach to projecting future changes in the species' life history parameters due to climate change and noted that, while preliminary work had been carried out on recruitment trends, a more comprehensive analysis of parameters such as growth and capacity limit is currently underway for skipjack tuna and is being widely applied to swordfish.

The United States stated that it does not view "climate change" as a useful term, and instead thinks ICCAT should be focusing on specific threats to our fisheries, noting that the SCRS proposal to focus on the four variables presented is an appropriate mechanism to view how fisheries are impacted by specific threats like ocean acidification or warming temperatures. The European Union indicated that it could not agree with any change in the terminology used in relation to climate change, reminding that this was already agreed by the Commission and should be used consistently. The EU also enquired about the potential role of managers in the context of integrating climate considerations into the MSE process, and the need for closer involvement of the relevant Panels.

The European Union also expressed an interest in exploring climate scenarios further and suggested considering also parameters that are not currently tested in the MSE framework.

With regard to minimum size limits, the SCRS outlined the methodological challenges involved in assessing this measure within the framework of MSE simulations. Several delegations raised questions about the consequences of a possible removal of the regulatory minimum size. The European Union sought clarification on the impact of such a change on the performance of the adopted MP. The United States emphasized that any scenario designed to test the removal of the minimum size would necessarily need to incorporate a change in the selectivity parameters of the fisheries, in order to realistically reflect changes in catches.

Canada, for its part, asked the SCRS about the methodology that would be used to assess the effects of removing the minimum size limit, particularly on the selectivity of fishing gear and on the results of stock assessments.

In response, the SCRS Chair clarified that it was not proposing the removal of the minimum size as a management measure. Rather, its aim is to obtain more precise guidance from Panel 4 regarding the expected outcomes of the analyses to be carried out. The Committee also noted that, in the current simulations, selectivity is assumed to be identical across all fisheries, whilst acknowledging that this assumption might need to be reviewed if alternative scenarios, such as the removal of the minimum size limit, were formally requested.

Discussions focused on the consideration of minimum sizes in the context of MP robustness testing. The European Union recalled that an initial analysis of minimum sizes had already been carried out in 2025, whilst emphasizing that it could be useful to explore alternative scenarios, such as different minimum size limits, including no limits, and their effects on fleet behaviour, fishing gear selectivity and the impact of trapline within the current management framework.

In response, the Chair of the SCRS indicated that a methodological framework enabling a comparison of the robustness of MPs under different scenarios had already been developed. However, he clarified that the SCRS required guidance from the Commission regarding the alternative minimum size limits to be tested, as well as on the levels of risk deemed acceptable for conducting these assessments.

Panel 4 requested the SCRS to clarify the analyses relating to the minimum size limit for North Atlantic swordfish. Priority will be given to assessing the consequences of removing the minimum size limit, whilst also examining the effects of possible adjustments to this measure and the robustness of the MP in relation to these changes. The analyses must take into account potential changes in fleet behaviour, in particular changes in selectivity based on fish size. No additional scenarios have been identified. Performance criteria, such as stock biomass, maximum sustainable yield (MSY), juvenile mortality or reproductive capacity, will be reviewed by the Swordfish Species Group, without any order of priority being established.

Furthermore, the Panel recommended assessing the impact of the use of trapline on the North Atlantic swordfish MP. Climate change robustness testing was also discussed, although no changes to the currently planned methodological approach were requested.

6.2 Blue shark MSE

The Vice Chair of the SCRS presented a progress report on the development of the blue shark MSE. He noted that the conversion of stock assessment models into operational models (OMs) is now well underway and that the technical platform is operational. However, the results obtained at this stage remain preliminary and are not intended to serve as a basis for immediate management advice.

The analyses carried out to date have not established a robust quantitative relationship between fishing mortality of blue shark and that of shortfin mako shark. However, the SCRS emphasized that sustainable management of blue shark would help to limit the risks facing this species. The work also highlights the need to incorporate explicit mechanisms to account for bycatch and its potential effects on other species.

The next stages of the work will focus on expanding the uncertainty grid, defining robustness axes and reference points, and translating the Commission's objectives into measurable performance criteria relating to stock status, biological safety, yield and the stability of the fishery.

At the same time, the SCRS will continue to develop MSEs for blue shark stocks in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic. This parallel approach may have implications for the work schedule, which will be monitored. Furthermore, the Committee will analyze in greater detail the interactions between blue shark and shortfin mako in the North Atlantic, in particular the potential effects of a blue shark management approach on bycatch of other species. The United States indicated it could not support the blue shark MSE without consideration of shortfin mako bycatch in some capacity as the MP could otherwise jeopardize the rebuilding of shortfin mako. Finally, it will consider whether to update the blue shark stock assessment over the coming year.

7. Other matters

No other items or matters not on the agenda were raised or discussed during the meeting.

8. Adoption of the report and closure

The Chair noted that the report of the meeting would be adopted by correspondence. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Secretariat and the interpreters, thanked the participants for the constructive discussions, and adjourned the meeting.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Review of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) regarding the management of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06)
5. Review of the current status of the experimental use of traplines
   - 5.1 Reporting operational information on the use of traplines
   - 5.2 Early results from experimental use of traplines in ICCAT longline fisheries
6. Updates on North swordfish (SWO-N) Management Procedure (MP) and blue shark (BSH) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
   - 6.1 North Atlantic swordfish robustness testing for Climate Change effects and size limits
     - Clarification required on the Commission request for a "robustness test for minimum size limits"
     - Preliminary results from robustness testing
   - 6.2 Blue shark MSE
     - Technical progress to date
     - Working approach and next steps
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report and closure

Appendix 2

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Appendix 3

Application of over/under-harvest under the provisions of Rec. 19-05, as amended by Rec. 25-06
(submitted by the Secretariat)

Following the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06), which amends the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Commission, and in advance of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 in July 2026, the Secretariat has prepared this comparative analysis.

This review has been structured to provide Panel 4 with comprehensive insights and additional elements for consideration, ensuring that robust data are available to support any subsequent decisions regarding the operational impact of the 125% payback provision in paragraph 3b of Rec. 19-05, alongside the alternative calculations in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 25-06.

This analysis has been designed to align with the standard reporting formats usually presented for the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) review, namely document COC_304 and its Annex. The comprehensive calculations and comparative data are presented in an Excel spreadsheet (**Annex 1**) with a similar format, contrasting the outcomes of applying exclusively Rec. 19-05 against the implementation of Rec. 19-05 as amended by Rec. 25-06. The latest version of this document, COC_304/REV9/2025, and its Annex, are available here and has been used as the basis for the aforementioned calculations and figures.

The spreadsheet constitutes **Annex 1** of this document and comprises three specific tabs:

- **Blue marlin (BUM):** Contains the specific landing figures, baseline allocations, and adjusted parameters for blue marlin across the affected CPCs.
- **White marlin (WHM):** Contains the specific landing figures, baseline allocations, and adjusted parameters for white marlin across the affected CPCs.
- **Calculations:** Consolidates the complete data, formulas, and specific compliance rationale behind the figures presented in the first two tabs.

Annex 1 to Appendix 3

Calculations and comparative data contrasting the outcomes of applying exclusively Rec. 19-05 against the implementation of Rec. 19-05 as amended by Rec. 25-06

Blue marlin

FIGURES IN RED ARE CHANGES COMPARED TO THE COMPLIANCE TABLES ADOPTED IN 2025 / LES CHIFFRES EN ROUGE INDIQUENT LES MODIFICATIONS PAR RAPPORT AUX TABLEAUX D'APPLICATION ADOPTÉS EN 2025 / LOS DATOS EN ROJO SON CAMBIOS RESPECTO A LAS TABLAS DE CUMPLIMIENTO ADOPTADAS EN 2025

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CPCs shaded in yellow are Caribbean coastal developing CPCs / Les CPC ombrées en jaune sont des CPC côtières en développement des Caraïbes / Las CPC sombreadas en amarillo son CPC costeras en desarrollo del Caribe

BLUE MARLIN/MAKAIRE BLEU/AGUJA AZUL

	Landings limit									*Current landings*					*Balance*						*Adjusted landings limit*									
YEAR	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2025**	*2026*	*2026**	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2024**	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2024**	*2025*	*2025**	*2026*	*2026**
TAC	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*	*1670*																					
BARBADOS (***)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	21.53	12.23	9.50	9.02	7.63	-17.87	-44.48	-21.84	-54.62	-24.93	-19.47	3.66	-32.25	-12.34	-45.60	-17.30	-11.84	-58.28	-34.62	-21.16	0.53
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	18.21	23.69	10.51	8.44	22.59	-167.49	-181.18	-226.99	-282.18	-365.31	-294.77	-149.28	-157.49	-216.48	-273.74	-342.72	-272.18	-446.64	-274.77		
GRENADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	**48.95**	**18.30**	**19.13**	**68.30**	**26.51**	**-236.22**	**-244.52**	**-314.77**	**-451.76**	**-581.22**	**-468.27**	**-187.27**	**-226.22**	**-295.65**	**-383.47**	**-554.71**	**-441.76**	**-716.52**	**-448.27**		
GUYANA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	38.83	75.26	0.00	0.00		-147.05	-212.31	-255.39	-245.39	-235.39	-235.39	-108.22	-137.05	-255.39	-245.39	-235.39	-235.39	-225.39	-215.39		
LIBERIA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	1.82	1.85	6.00	1.93		-91.77	-83.62	-100.52	-117.58	-107.58	-107.58	-89.95	-81.77	-94.52	-115.65	-136.97	-136.97				
NAMIBIA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	51.41	9.85	8.34	9.80	10.63	-227.13	-226.98	-282.07	-352.38	-441.11	-441.11	-175.72	-217.13	-273.73	-342.58	-430.48	-430.48	-541.38	-541.38		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	**33.95**	**108.50**	**75.12**	**75.99**	**28.60**	**-29.55**	**-100.15**	**-162.41**	**-241.10**	**-292.08**	**-231.80**	**4.40**	**8.35**	**-87.29**	**-165.11**	**-263.48**	**-203.20**	**-327.19**	**-193.90**		
VENEZUELA	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	42.46	42.97	71.76	85.76	100.94	51.64	51.13	12.34	-1.66	-16.84	-16.84	94.10	94.10			82.44	82.44	63.05	67.26		
TOTAL LANDINGS										**257.16**	**292.65**	**200.35**	**259.23**	**196.90**																
Rec. number	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05 / 25-06	19-05	19-05 / 25-06												19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05	19-05 / 25-06	19-05	19-05 / 25-06	19-05	19-05 / 25-06

(***) BARBADOS: The adjusted quotas presented for Barbados are without prejudice to its position regarding how the 125% payback provision of Rec. 19-05 is to be applied, and may be adjusted in the future depending on outcomes of discussion within the Commission of the proper interpretation

(***) BARBADE: Les quotas ajustés présentés par la Barbade ne préjugent pas de sa position quant à l'application de la disposition de remboursement de 125 % prévue par la Recommandation 19-05 et pourront être ajustés ultérieurement en fonction des conclusions des discussions menées au sein de la Commission sur l'interprétation appropriée.

(***) BARBADOS: Las cuotas ajustadas presentadas por Barbados no prejuzgan su posición respecto de la aplicación de la disposición de reembolso del 125% prevista en la Recomendación 19-05 y podrán ajustarse posteriormente con base en las conclusiones de las discusiones celebradas durante la Comisión sobre la interpretación apropiada.

White marlin

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WHITE MARLIN/MAKAIRE BLANC/AGUJA BLANCA

	Landings limit									*Current landings*					*Balance*						*Adjusted landings limit*									
YEAR	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2025*	*2025**	*2026*	*2026**	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2024**	*2020*	*2021*	*2022*	*2023*	*2024*	*2024**	*2025*	*2025**	*2026*	*2026**
TAC	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*	*355*																					
BARBADOS(*)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.36	10.00	9.70	7.38	6.24	-14.09	-6.96	-17.31	-6.08	-17.88	-13.55	0.27	3.04	-7.61	1.30	-11.64	-7.31	2.40	3.92	-12.35	-3.55
GRENADA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00	2.00	10.00	**13.52**	**1.35**	**4.71**	**12.66**	**4.55**	**-57.14**	**-56.49**	**-73.32**	**-102.30**	**-130.43**	**-104.86**	**-43.62**	**-55.14**	**-68.61**	**-89.65**	**-125.88**	**-100.30**	**-161.04**	**-94.86**		
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00	2.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-155.26	-155.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-155.26	-155.26	-153.26	-145.26		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	**10.50**	**20.41**	**26.72**	**27.10**	**16.80**	**13.50**	**-0.41**	**-7.13**	**-16.02**	**-16.82**	**-12.82**	**24.00**		**19.59**	**11.08**	**-0.02**	**3.98**	**-1.03**	**7.18**		
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00	2.00	10.00	9.00	1.60	1.50	4.40	4.88	-23.86	-23.46	-28.83	-38.43	-50.92	-41.31	-14.86	-21.86	-27.33	-34.03	-46.04	-36.43	-61.65	-31.21		
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	35.40	31.77	43.22	49.13	42.15	-212.79	-194.56	-236.42	-294.65	-360.47	-286.81	-177.39	-162.79	-193.20	-245.52	-318.32	-244.65	-400.59	-236.81		
TOTAL LANDINGS										**82.78**	**65.13**	**85.85**	**100.67**	**74.63**																
Rec. number	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05 / 25-06*	*19-05*	*19-05 / 25-06*												*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05*	*19-05 / 25-06*	*19-05*	*19-05 / 25-06*	*19-05*	*19-05 / 25-06*

(***) BARBADOS: The adjusted quotas presented for Barbados are without prejudice to its position regarding how the 125% payback provision of Rec. 19-05 is to be applied, and may be adjusted in the future depending on outcomes of discussion within the Commission of the proper interpretation

(***) BARBADE: Les quotas ajustés présentés par la Barbade ne préjugent pas de sa position quant à l'application de la disposition de remboursement de 125 % prévue par la Recommandation 19-05 et pourront être ajustés ultérieurement en fonction des conclusions des discussions menées au sein de la Commission sur l'interprétation appropriée.

(***) BARBADOS: Las cuotas ajustadas presentadas por Barbados no prejuzgan su posición respecto de la aplicación de la disposición de reembolso del 125% prevista en la Recomendación 19-05 y podrán ajustarse posteriormente con base en las conclusiones de las discusiones celebradas durante la Comisión sobre la interpretación apropiada.

Calculations

APPLICATION OF OVER/UNDERHARVEST UNDER PROVISIONS OF REC. 25-06 (All quantities are in metric tons)
APPLICATION DE SUR/SOUSONSOMMATION CONFORMÉMENT AUX DISPOSITIONS DE LA REC. 25-06 (Toutes les quantités sont en tonnes)
APLICACIÓN DE EXCESO/REMANENTE DE CAPTURA BAJO LAS DISPOSICIONES DE LA REC. 25-06 (Todas las cantidades están en toneladas)

FIGURES IN RED ARE CHANGES COMPARED TO THE COMPLIANCE TABLES ADOPTED IN 2025 / LES CHIFFRES EN ROUGE INDIQUENT LES MODIFICATIONS PAR RAPPORT AUX TABLEAUX D'APPLICATION ADOPTÉS EN 2025 / LOS DATOS EN ROJO SON CAMBIOS RESPECTO A LAS TABLAS DE CUMPLIMIENTO ADOPTADAS EN 2025

Data obtained from Task 1 whenever no data was reported in the Compliance Tables are shown in **bold** / Les données obtenues dans le cadre de la tâche 1 lorsqu'aucune donnée n'a été déclarée dans les tableaux d'application figurent en **gras** / En **negrita** datos obtenidos de Tarea I cuando no se han reportado datos en las tablas de Cumplimiento

Data amended in accordance with Rec. 25-06 are shown in green / Les données modifiées conformément à la Rec. 25-06 sont indiquées en vert / Los datos modificados de conformidad con la Rec. 25-06 se muestran en verde.

CPCs shaded in yellow are Caribbean coastal developing CPCs / Les CPC ombrées en jaune sont des CPC côtières en développement des Caraïbes / Las CPC sombreadas en amarillo son CPC costeras en desarrollo del Caribe

Flag:	**BARBADOS**										
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units: t**									
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***	**2026**	**2026***
Limit		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	20
Adjusted limit (A)		3.66	-32.25	-12.34	-45.60	-17.30	-11.84	-58.28	-34.62	-21.16	0.53
Formula *		6	7	8	9	10	10*	11	11*	12	12*
Catch (B)		21.53	12.23	9.5	9.02	7.63	7.63				
Balance (A-B)		-17.87	-44.48	-21.84	-54.62	-24.93	-19.47				
Adjustment year**		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	2027	2027	2028	2028

8	IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2020)
9	IQ(2023)+125% BALANCE(2021)
10	IQ(2024)+125% BALANCE(2022)
10*	IQ(2024)+BALANCE(2022)
11	IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2023)
11*	IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2023)
12	IQ(2026)+125% BALANCE(2024)
12*	IQ(2026*)+BALANCE(2024*)

Stock:	**WHM**	**Units: t**									
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***	**2026**	**2026***
Limit		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Adjusted limit (A)		0.27	3.04	-7.61	1.30	-11.64	-7.31	2.40	3.92	-12.35	-3.55
Formula *		6	7	8	9	10	10*	11	11*	12	12*
Catch (B)		14.36	10.00	9.70	7.38	6.24	6.24				
Balance (A-B)		-14.09	-6.96	-17.31	-6.08	-17.88	-13.55				
Adjustment year**		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026	2027	2027	2028	2028

8	IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2020)
9	IQ(2023)+125% BALANCE(2021)
10	IQ(2024)+125% BALANCE(2022)
10*	IQ(2024)+BALANCE(2022)
11	IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2023)
11*	IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2023)
12	IQ(2026)+125% BALANCE(2024)
12*	IQ(2026*)+BALANCE(2024*)

Flag:	**COSTA RICA**								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units : t**							
Año		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Límite		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Límite ajustado (A)		-149.28	-157.49	-216.48	-273.74	-342.72	-272.18	-446.64	-274.77
Fórmula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Captura (B)		18.21	23.69	10.51	8.44	22.59	22.59		
Saldo (A-B)		-167.49	-181.18	-226.99	-282.18	-365.31	-294.77		
Año de ajuste**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026

Describir la lógica utilizada en la aplicación de los excesos/remanentes:
[4]= Límite de 2020 + balance de 2019
[5]= Límite de 2021 + BALANCE de 2020
[6]= Límite de 2022 + 125% BALANCE de 2021
[7]= Límite de 2023 + 125% BALANCE de 2022
[8]= Límite de 2024 + 125% BALANCE de 2023
[8]*= Límite de 2024+BALANCE de 2023
[9]= Límite de 2025 + 125% BALANCE de 2024
[9]*= Límite de 2025* + BALANCE de 2024*

Flag:	GRENADA								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units: t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Adjusted limit (A)		**-187.27**	**-226.22**	**-295.65**	**-383.47**	**-554.71**	**-441.76**	**-716.52**	**-448.27**
Formula *		4	5	6	7	8	8*	9	9*
Catch (B)		**48.95**	**18.30**	**19.13**	**68.30**	**26.51**	**26.51**		
Balance (A-B)		**-236.22**	**-244.52**	**-314.77**	**-451.76**	**-581.22**	**-468.27**		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026

4 IQ(2020)+BALANCE(2019)
5 IQ(2021)+BALANCE(2020)
6 IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2021)
7 IQ(2023)+125% BALANCE(2022)
8 IQ(2024)+125% BALANCE(2023)
8* IQ(2024)+BALANCE(2023)
9 IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2024)
9* IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2024*)

Stock:	**WHM**	**Units: t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00
Adjusted limit (A)		**-43.62**	**-55.14**	**-68.61**	**-89.65**	**-125.88**	**-100.30**	**-161.04**	**-94.86**
Formula *		4	5	6	7	8	8*	9	9*
Catch (B)		**13.52**	**1.35**	**4.71**	**12.66**	**4.55**	**4.55**		
Balance (A-B)		**-57.14**	**-56.49**	**-73.32**	**-102.30**	**-130.43**	-104.86		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026

4 IQ(2020)+BALANCE(2019)
5 IQ(2021)+BALANCE(2020)
6 IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2021)
7 IQ(2023)+125% BALANCE(2022)
8 IQ(2024)+125% BALANCE(2023)
8* IQ(2024)+BALANCE(2023)
9 IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2024)
9* IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2024*)

Flag:	GUYANA								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units: t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Adjusted limit (A)		-108.22	-137.05	-255.39	-245.39	-235.39	-235.39	-225.39	-215.39
Formula *		4	5	6	7	8	8*	9	9*
Catch (B)		38.83	75.26	0.00	0.00				
Balance (A-B)		-147.05	-212.31	-255.39	-245.39	-235.39	-235.39		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
	4 IQ(2020)+BALANCE(2019)								
	5 IQ(2021)+BALANCE(2020)								
	6 IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2021)								
	7 IQ(2023)+ BALANCE(2022)								
	8 IQ(2024)+ BALANCE(2023)								
	8* IQ(2024)+ BALANCE(2023)								
	9 IQ(2025)+ BALANCE(2024)								
	9* IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2024*)								

Stock:	**WHM**	**Units: t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00
Adjusted limit (A)		-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-155.26	-155.26	-153.26	-145.26
Formula *		4	5	6	7	8	8*	9	9*
Catch (B)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Balance (A-B)		-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	-157.26	-155.26	-155.26		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
	4 IQ(2020)+BALANCE(2019)								
	5 IQ(2021)+BALANCE(2020)								
	6 IQ(2022)+BALANCE(2021)								
	7 IQ(2023)+ BALANCE(2022)								
	8 IQ(2024)+ BALANCE(2023)								
	8* IQ(2024)+ BALANCE(2023)								
	9 IQ(2025)+ BALANCE(2024)								
	9* IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2024*)								

Flag:	**LIBERIA**								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units : t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Adjusted limit (A)		-89.95	-81.77	-94.52	-115.65	-136.97	-107.58	-126.97	-87.58
Formula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Catch (B)		1.82	1.85	6.00	1.93				
Balance (A-B)		-91.77	-83.62	-100.52	-117.58	-136.97	-107.58		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage									
[4] = 2020 limit + 2019 Balance									
[5] = 2021 limit + 2020 Balance									
[6] = 2022 limit + 125% 2021 Balance									
[7] = 2023 limit + 125% 2022 Balance									
[8] = 2024 limit + 125% 2023 Balance									
[8]* = 2024 limit + 2023 Balance									
[9] = 2025 limit + 2024 Balance									
[9]* = 2025* limit + 2024* Balance									

Flag:	**NAMIBIA**								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units : t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Adjusted limit (A)		-175.72	-217.13	-273.73	-342.58	-430.48	-342.38	-541.38	-333.01
Formula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Catch (B)		51.41	9.85	8.34	9.80	10.63	10.63		
Balance (A-B)		-227.13	-226.98	-282.07	-352.38	-441.11	-353.01		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2023	2025	2025	2026	2026
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage									
[4]= Límite de 2020 + balance de 2019									
[5]= Límite de 2021 + BALANCE de 2020									
[6]= Límite de 2022 + 125% BALANCE de 2021									
[7]= Límite de 2023 + 125% BALANCE de 2022									
[8]= Límite de 2024 + 125% BALANCE de 2023									
[8]*= Límite de 2024+BALANCE de 2023									
[9]= Límite de 2025 + 125% BALANCE de 2024									
[9]*= Límite de 2025* + BALANCE de 2024*									

Flag:	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES								
Stock:	**WHM**	**Units : t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00
Adjusted limit (A)		-14.86	-21.86	-27.33	-34.03	-46.04	-36.43	-61.65	-31.31
Formula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Catch (B)		9.00	1.60	1.50	4.40	4.88	4.88		
Balance (A-B)		-23.86	-23.46	-28.83	-38.43	-50.92	-41.31		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage									
4 IQ(2020)+BALANCE(2019)									
5 IQ(2021)+BALANCE(2020)									
6 IQ(2022)+125% BALANCE(2021)									
7 IQ(2023)+125% BALANCE(2022)									
8 IQ(2024)+125% BALANCE(2023)									
8* IQ(2024)+ BALANCE(2023)									
9 IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2024)									
9* IQ(2025*)+BALANCE(2024*)									

Flag:	SAO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE								
Stock:	**BUM**	**Units : t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90	37.90
Adjusted limit (A)		**4.40**	**8.35**	**-87.29**	**-165.11**	**-263.48**	**-203.20**	**-327.19**	**-193.90**
Formula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Catch (B)		**33.95**	**108.50**	**75.12**	**75.99**	**28.60**	**28.60**		
Balance (A-B)		**-29.55**	**-100.15**	**-162.41**	**-241.10**	**-292.08**	**-231.80**		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage									
[4] = 2020 limit + 2019 Balance									
[5] = 2021 limit + 2020 Balance									
[6] = 2022 limit + 125% 2021 Balance									
[7] = 2023 limit + 125% 2022 Balance									
[8] = 2024 limit + 125% 2023 Balance									
[8]* = 2024 limit + 2023 Balance									
[9] = 2025 limit + 2024 Balance									
[9]* = 2025* limit + 2024* Balance									

Stock:	**WHM**	**Units : t**							
Year		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Limit		20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Adjusted limit (A)		**24.00**		**19.59**	**11.08**	**-0.02**	**3.98**	**-1.03**	**7.18**
Formula *		[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[8]*	[9]	[9]*
Catch (B)		**10.50**	**20.41**	**26.72**	**27.10**	**16.80**	**16.80**		
Balance (A-B)		**13.50**	**-0.41**	**-7.13**	**-16.02**	**-16.82**	**-12.82**		
Adjustment year**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
Describe the rationale used in the application of overage / underage									
[4] = 2020 limit + MAX 20% 2019 Balance									
[5] = 2021 limit									
[6] = 2022 limit + 2021 Balance									
[7] = 2023 limit + 125% 2022 Balance									
[8]* = 2024 limit + 2023 Balance									
[9] = 2025 limit + 2024 Balance									
[9]* = 2025* limit + 2024* Balance									

Pabellón:	**VENEZUELA**							
Stock:	**BUM**	**Unidades: t**						
Año		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2025***
Límite		84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10	84.10
Límite ajustado (A)		94.10	94.10			82.44	60.98	65.60
Fórmula *		84.10+(100*0.1)	84.10+(100*0.1)				[2]	[2]
Captura (B)		42.46	42.97	71.76	85.76	100.94		
Saldo (A-B)		51.64	51.13	12.34	-1.66	-18.50		
Año de ajuste**					2024	2025	2026	2026
[2] IQ(2025)+125% BALANCE(2024)								
[2]* IQ(2025)+BALANCE(2024)								

Stock:	**WHM**	**Unidades: t**							
Año		**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2024***	**2025**	**2025***
Límite		50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Límite ajustado (A)		-177.39	-162.79	-193.20	-245.52	-318.32	-244.65	-400.59	-236.81
Fórmula *		(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(8)*	(9)	(9)*
Captura (B)		35.40	31.77	43.22	49.13	42.15	42.15		
Saldo (A-B)		-212.79	-194.56	-236.42	-294.65	-360.47	-286.81		
Año de ajuste**		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026
(4) Límite ajustado 2020 = Límite 2020 + Saldo 2019									
(5) Límite ajustado 2021 = Límite 2021 + Saldo 2020									
(6) Límite ajustado 2022 = Límite 2022 + 125% Saldo 2021									
(7) Límite ajustado 2023 = Límite 2023 + 125% Saldo 2022									
(8) Límite ajustado 2024 = Límite 2024 + 125% Saldo 2023									
(8)* Límite ajustado 2024 = Límite 2024 + Saldo 2023									
(9) Límite ajustado 2025 = Límite 2025 + 125% Saldo 2024									
(9)* Límite ajustado 2025* = Límite 2025 + Saldo 2024*									

Appendix 4

Discussion paper on the excess harvest penalty calculation in paragraph 3b of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05)

(submitted by the United States)

Background

In recent years, several CPCs have highlighted issues with the penalty provision under paragraph 3b of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), which provides as follows:

> "b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) above, if any CPC exceeds its landings limit during any two consecutive years, its landings limit shall be reduced on or before the adjustment year by at least 125% of the excess harvest, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate."

In the "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" (PA4_819_SPONS/2024), several CPCs highlighted that under the application of this provision as reflected in the compliance tables, "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." This methodology was further described to result in "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 issue was further highlighted in proposals submitted for the 2025 Commission meeting and ultimately reflected in paragraph 4b of *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06). The United States believes that additional clarification may be useful through an amendment to existing payback language, in order to ensure a shared understanding of a uniform methodology for calculating overage penalties.

This issue is also described in the "Explanatory note for a Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (PA4_05/i2026) submitted by the United States. To clarify how and when the overage penalty should be applied and to ensure CPCs are only being penalized to the extent applicable, the U.S. proposal would modify paragraph 3b to read:

> b) <u>In addition to the payback required under para 3a,</u> if any CPC exceeds its landings limit during any two consecutive years, its landings limit shall be reduced on or before the adjustment year by <u>an additional 25%</u> of the <u>harvest in excess of the CPC's base landings limit in the second consecutive year</u>, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.

The United States notes that these modifications to the language in this measure would be without prejudice to interpretation of overharvest penalty language in other ICCAT Recommendations. The language in each relevant Recommendation is phrased differently (e.g., Recs. 25-04, 25-05, 24-01, 23-10, 23-11).

Changes to marlin compliance table calculations

The United States believes that CPCs, in consultation with the Secretariat, could correct their compliance tables based on this interpretation, beginning from the year 2020 when Rec. 19-05 entered into force. The United States believes the proposed modifications would bring the language more in line with how the Panel intended for it to work at the time of adoption. Compliance table calculations would also include the provisions adopted under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Rec. 25-06. These changes to compliance tables would align with the following clarifications:

1. The first instance a CPC could have the penalty apply would be following excess harvest in both 2020 and 2021.
2. The 25% penalty applies to excess harvest in the second consecutive year. Both years of excess harvest are subject to the 100% payback provision under paragraph 3a.
3. The 25% penalty applies to the harvest in excess of the CPC's base landings limit in para 2 (i.e., the penalty does not apply to the entire negative balance a CPC may have).
4. The 25% penalty only applies following 2 consecutive years of harvest in excess of the base landings limit. If a CPC does not exceed their base landings limit in year three, then there would not be a further penalty (while payback of any penalty remaining from year two would continue). However, if a CPC continues to exceed their base landings limit in a third consecutive year and following consecutive years, then in each consecutive year, the 25% penalty would apply to the harvest from that year in excess of the CPC's base landings limit.

Implications of misapplying the 25% penalty

These changes are illustrated with the below hypothetical example of compliance table calculations, in which a hypothetical CPC has overharvested for several years, and entered into 2021 with an adjusted limit of -140 t. The consequence of how the penalty is applied can be drastic. For example:

- If the 25% penalty is applied to a CPC's entire balance, using the illustration below, the debt would be 311.56 t in 2025.
- When the penalty is only applied to the excess harvest, however, the debt would be 160.75 t in 2025.

Recommendation: CPCs should work with the Secretariat before compliance tables are published to ensure any debt is accurately calculated.

Example of *current* calculation methods for a Caribbean coastal developing CPC with the default landings limit for blue marlin:

Stock:	**BUM**	**Units: t**									
Year	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Base Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20
Adjusted limit (A)		-30	-90	-115	-130	-140	-190	-246.25	-306.56	-311.56	
Formula *		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Catch (B)	50	70	35	25	20	20	15	7	25		
Balance (A-B)	-40	-100	-125	-140	-150	-160	-205	-253.25	-331.56		
Adjust-ment year**	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	2017 base limit + 2016 balance = 2017 adjusted limit										
2	2018 base limit + 2017 balance = 2018 adjusted limit										
3	2019 base limit + 2018 balance =2019 adjusted limit										
4	2020 base limit + 2019 balance = 2020 adjusted limit										
5	2021 base limit + 2020 balance = 2021 adjusted limit										
6	2022 base limit + 125% 2021 balance =2022 adjusted limit										

7	2023 base limit + 125% 2022 balance = 2023 adjusted limit
8	2024 base limit + 125% 2023 balance = 2024 adjusted limit
9	2025 base limit + 2024 balance (No penalty for 2024 landings, per Rec. 25-06 paragraph 2) = 2025 adjusted limit

Example of updated calculation methods for a Caribbean coastal developing CPC with the default landings limit for blue marlin:

Stock:	**BUM**	**Units: t**									
Year	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	20
Adjusted limit (A)		-30	-90	-115	-130	-140	-152.5	-158.75	-155.75	-160.75	
Formula *		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Catch (B)	50	70	35	25	20	20	15	7	25		
Balance (A-B)	-40	-100	-125	-140	-150	-160	-167.50	-165.75	-180.75		
Adjustment year**	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	2017 base limit + 2016 balance = 2017 adjusted limit										
2	2018 base limit + 2017 balance = 2018 adjusted limit										
3	2019 base limit + 2018 balance = 2019 adjusted limit										
4	2020 base limit + 2019 balance = 2020 adjusted limit										
5	2021 base limit + 2020 balance = 2021 adjusted limit										
6	2022 base limit + 2021 balance - 25% 2021 harvest in excess of base limit = 10 - 160 - (0.25*10) = 2022 adjusted limit										
7	2023 base limit + 2022 balance - 25% 2022 harvest in excess of base limit = 10 - 167.5 - (0.25*5) = 2023 adjusted limit										
8	2024 base limit + 2023 balance (No penalty; landings were within base limit in 2023) = 2024 adjusted limit										
9	2025 base limit + 2024 balance (No penalty for 2024 landings, per Rec. 25-06 paragraph 2) = 2025 adjusted limit										

Note that these examples use an adjustment year that is one year after the catch year (e.g., 2021 adjusted limit = 2021 limit + 2020 balance), while paragraph 3a of Rec. 19-05 allows for the adjustment year to be two years after the catch year (e.g., 2021 adjusted limit = 2021 limit + 2019 balance).

Appendix 5

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish
(a new proposal to amend existing Recommendation 19-05)

(submitted by the United States)

RECALLING the 2000 blue marlin stock assessment, which found that the stock was below B_{MSY} (overfished) with fishing mortality above F_{MSY} (overfishing occurring)~~, and subsequent assessments, most recently in 2018, confirming that the stock remains in this state~~;

ACKNOWLEDGING the 2019 white marlin/roundscale spearfish stock assessment, which found that overfishing ~~i~~was not occurring, but the stock remains overfished after more than twenty years of management by ICCAT;

FURTHER RECALLING the 2024 blue marlin and 2025 white marlin/roundscale spearfish stock assessments, which found overfishing is not occurring for either stock, while both remain below B_{MSY} (overfished);

AWARE OF measures adopted by the Commission over the last 2~~0~~6 years to improve the status of blue marlins and white marlins, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin populations* (Rec. 00-13), *Recommendation by ICCAT to further strengthen the plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin stocks* (Rec. 12-04), and subsequent recommendations;

HIGHLIGHTING that in response to paragraph 21 of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), the SCRS concluded in its 2024 annual report that experimental research has demonstrated that in longline fisheries the use of circle hooks resulted in a reduction of marlin catch rates and haulback mortality;

UNDERSTANDING, however, the 2019 SCRS advice that total catches of blue marlin should be reduced to 1,750 t or less to provide at least a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028 and that total catches of white marlin/roundscale spearfish should not exceed 400 t to support rebuilding. This SCRS advice was repeated in 2025, using the existing limits of 1,670 t for blue marlin and 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish as the advised levels;

NOTING that the annual limits adopted in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), 1,670 t for blue marlin and 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish, represented a decrease from the 2019 SCRS advice of 1,750 t and 400 t, respectively. The lower limits were adopted with the aim of establishing annual limits that take into account both reported dead discards and an additional buffer for unreported catches to ensure overall annual catches will not exceed the levels recommended by the SCRS in 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGING that dead discards are not accounted for in the annual limits in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Rec. 15-05 to further strengthen the plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin stocks* (Rec. 18-04);

AIMING to establish limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that take into account reported dead discards;

UNDERSCORING the existing obligations of CPCs to require the collection of data on dead and live discards in their domestic observer and logbook programs under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 11-10), consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* (Rec. 16-14), and to report these data to ICCAT;

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

1. CPCs shall implement measures ~~to end overfishing of blue marlin as soon as possible and~~ to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish stocks to their respective B_{MSY} levels as follows:

Annual limits and related provisions

2. An annual limit of 1,670 t for blue marlin and of 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish is established beginning in 2020. Landings limits shall be implemented as follows:

Blue marlin	*Landings limit (t)*
Brazil	159.8
China, P.R.	37.9
Chinese Taipei	126.2
Côte d'Ivoire	126.2
European Union[1]	403.8
Ghana	210.3
Japan	328.1
Korea Rep.	29.4
Mexico	58.9
S. Tomé & Príncipe	37.9
Senegal	50.5
Trinidad and Tobago	16.8
Venezuela	84.1
TOTAL	**1,670**

[1] The following transfer of annual landings limit shall be authorized for blue marlin: from EU to Trinidad & Tobago: 2 t.

White marlin/roundscale spearfish	*Landings limit (t)*
Barbados	10
Brazil	50
Canada	10
China, P.R.	10
Chinese Taipei	50
European Union	50
Côte d'Ivoire	10
Japan	35
Korea Rep.	20
Mexico	25
S. Tomé & Príncipe	20
Trinidad and Tobago	15
Venezuela	50
TOTAL	**355**

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish combined on an annual basis. All other CPCs shall limit their landings to a maximum of 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin and 2 t of white marlin/roundscale spearfish combined.

3. a) Any excess of the annual landings limits established in paragraph 2 shall be deducted from the respective landings limits during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

Catch year	*Adjustment year*
~~2019~~	~~2021~~
~~2020~~	~~2022~~
~~2021~~	~~2023~~
~~2022~~	~~2024~~
~~2023~~	~~2025~~
~~2024~~	~~2026~~
2026	2028
2027	2029
2028	2030
2029	2031

b) ~~Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) above, I~~In addition to the payback required under para 3a, ~~i~~If any CPC exceeds its landings limit during any two consecutive years, its landings limit shall be reduced on or before the adjustment year by ~~at least~~ an additional ~~1~~25% of the harvest in excess of the CPC's base landings limit ~~excess harvest~~ in the second consecutive year, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.

c) Starting with 2020 catches, any underharvest by a CPC of its annual landings limit may not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

d) Developing coastal CPCs may receive transfers from CPCs with landing limits on the tables in paragraph 2 for the sole purpose of repaying their overharvest (i.e., transfers do not exceed the negative balance or increase a CPC's adjusted landing limit past its base limit). CPCs that are carrying a negative balance may not transfer. All transfers are subject to Commission approval and cannot be re-transferred.

Mortality mitigation, l~~L~~ive release requirement, and retention allowances

3bis. In order to reduce catch rates and at-haulback mortality, CPCs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner[2] shall use only large circle hooks[3].

4. To the extent possible, CPCs shall require pelagic longline vessels and purse seine vessels flying their flag to promptly release blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are alive at haul-back, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members, in a manner that causes the least harm and maximizes post-release survival.

5. CPCs shall encourage the implementation of the minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures, as specified in **Annex 1** while giving due consideration to the safety of the crew. The fishing vessels should have readily available on deck and easily accessible by crew, a lifting device, bolt cutter, dehooker/disgorger and line-cutter for safe release of live marlins caught.

6. CPCs should ensure that captain and crew members of their fishing vessels are adequately trained, aware of and use proper mitigation, identification, handling and releasing techniques and keep on board all equipment necessary for the release of marlins in accordance with the minimum standards for safe handling procedures as specified in **Annex 1**. Nothing in this measure shall prevent CPCs from adopting more stringent measures.

7. CPCs shall endeavor to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/roundscale spearfish in their ICCAT fisheries.

8. CPCs may authorize their pelagic longline and purse seine vessels to catch and retain on board, transship, or land blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are dead, within their landing limit.

8bis. For greater clarity, once a CPC reaches its landing limit, all catches of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish shall be discarded. CPCs should encourage such discards to be carried out in a manner consistent with paragraph 5.

9. In derogation to paragraph 8bis, f~~F~~or CPCs with national legislation that prohibits dead discards, ~~the landings of~~ blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel may be retained, and landings of such fish ~~and that are not sold or entered into commerce~~ shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 2, provided that: ~~on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained in their Annual Report. This provision shall be applicable only to commercial fisheries.~~

- the CPC prohibits such fish from being sold or otherwise entering into commerce, and
- the CPC notifies the ICCAT Secretariat of its intent to exercise this exception and provides information to the Commission in the questionnaire portion of its Annual Report information on its retention requirement and measures in place to prohibit sale and entry into commerce.

[2] Shallow-set fisheries are generally to be considered those in which the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters, as determined by the SCRS.
[3] Circle hooks are defined as a hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape. CPCs should adopt the use of circle hooks with an offset of no more than 10 degrees.

10. Blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are caught for local consumption by developing coastal CPCs, or by other CPCs' small island, artisanal, subsistence, and small-scale coastal fisheries are exempted from Paragraph 4 provided these CPCs (a) submit Task 1 and Task 2 data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS and (b) in the case of non-developing coastal CPCs, notify the Commission of their claim to this exemption and measures taken to limit application of this exemption to such fisheries.

11. For recreational and sport fisheries:
    a) CPCs shall take appropriate measures to ensure that any released fish are released in a manner that causes the least harm.
    b) CPCs shall establish minimum sizes for retention that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/roundscale spearfish.
    c) CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/roundscale spearfish caught in recreational and sport fisheries.

Observer programme

12. CPCs shall collect catch data on blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, including live and dead discards, through logbooks and scientific observer programs as required by Rec. 11-10 and Rec. 16-14. CPCs shall include their estimates of total dead and live discards in their Task I Nominal Catch data submission. In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of 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), CPCs may use EMS to complement the required level of human observer coverage and the required tasks to be performed by these human observers as detailed in Rec. 16-14.

13. In addition, CPCs shall establish or maintain data collection programs in recreational and sport fisheries, including a minimum of 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish tournaments, to ensure that catches are reported in accordance with existing ICCAT reporting obligations.

Data collection and reporting

14. CPCs shall provide their estimates of total live and dead discards of blue marlin, white marlin/roundscale spearfish, based on fishing logbooks, landing declarations, or equivalent document for the sport/recreational fisheries, as well as scientific observer reports, as part of their Task 1 and 2 data submission to support the stock assessment process.

15. Starting with the reporting of 2020 catches, failure to report Task 1 data, including dead discards, for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in accordance with established ICCAT requirements will result in a prohibition of retention of these species in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations* (Rec. 11-15).

15 bis. To facilitate reporting of landings and discard data, CPCs can make use of the Bycatch Estimation Tool to provide estimates of total live and dead discards of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish as part of their Task 1 and 2 data submission to support the stock assessment process.

15 tris. In order to promote recovery of the stock and to facilitate the sharing of information on best practices, CPCs that successfully reduce bycatch and/or discards of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish should summarize and report on the changes in fishing behavior or practices used to reduce these interactions and the associated mortality.

16. No later than 2020, CPCs shall present to the SCRS the statistical methodology used to estimate dead and live discards. 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.

The SCRS shall also determine if additional~~one or more~~ capacity building workshops are warranted to help CPCs to comply with the requirement to report total live and dead discards. If so, the Secretariat in coordination with the SCRS should begin organizing the SCRS-recommended workshop(s) in 2027~~1~~ with a view to convening them as soon as practicable.

17. The SCRS shall evaluate the completeness of Task 1 and 2 data submissions, including estimates of total dead and live discards, and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by industrial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), artisanal fisheries and recreational fisheries. If after conducting such evaluation, the SCRS determines that significant gaps in data reporting exist, the SCRS should explore approaches to estimate the level of unreported catches to include in future stock assessments in order to enhance the basis on which to provide management advice to the Commission.

SCRS work and request for scientific advice

18. The SCRS shall continue its work to further improve data collection initiatives as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries, in particular artisanal fisheries of developing CPCs to inform future decisions by the Commission.

19. The Secretariat, with support from the Commission and the SCRS, shall continue its review of the relevant work conducted by the regional and sub-regional international organizations, similar to the review conducted for West Africa, with a priority focus on the Caribbean and Latin America. The Secretariat and CPCs are also encouraged to collaborate with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) on fishery statistics on ICCAT species.

Taking into account the findings of these regional reviews, the CPCs shall take action, as appropriate, to improve data collection and reporting programs in accordance with any SCRS advice in preparation for the next white marlin/roundscale spearfish and blue marlin stock assessments.

~~20. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall work to develop recommendations on the following issues for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting of the Commission:~~

~~a) Minimum standard for an electronic monitoring system such as:~~
~~(i) the minimum specification of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity, data storage type, data protection)~~
~~(ii) the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board~~

~~b) What shall be recorded~~
~~c) Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence~~
~~d) Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details~~
~~e) Reporting format to the Secretariat~~

~~In 2020 CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the PWG and the SCRS in 2021 for their review.~~

20. The SCRS shall, in collaboration with CPCs, review available scientific literature and any information reported by CPCs from paragraph 15tris to provide advice to the Commission on ~~explore~~ potential technical changes to the terminal gear (such as hook shape, hook size, leader type, etc.) and fishing practices (e.g., timing, soaking time, bait, depths, areas) that could reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality (at-vessel and post-release). ~~As part of this process, the SCRS in collaboration with CPCs shall design and implement a study(ies) to compare the effects of hook shape and size on catch rates (considering both hooking and retention rates), at-haulback mortality, and post-release mortality. The experimental design should account for the influence of leader material types and consider potential operational differences among regions and fleets.~~

21. The SCRS shall conduct assessments for blue marlin in 20~~24~~30 and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in 20~~25~~31.

Compliance

22. Consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 18-05), CPCs shall submit details of their implementation of this measure through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, and of their compliance with this measure using the billfish check sheet.

Repeals and review clause

23. ~~In 2022, t~~The Commission shall review any new scientific advice when made available from the SCRS and consider adjustments, such as the adoption of additional conservation and management measures or review of the landing limits, as appropriate.

24. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06). ~~*Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04).~~

Annex 1 to Appendix 5

Minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures[1]

The following steps should be followed to reduce stress and injury to incidentally caught marlins and round scale spearfish specimens for a maximum probability of survival while minimizing the safety risk to the crew. Skippers and crew should always put their personal safety first when releasing marlins and other large fish. Wear gloves and avoid working around the spear-shaped bill. These basic guidelines do not replace stricter safety rules established by CPCs national Authorities.

- Stop the vessel or substantially reduce its speed.
- Secure the far side of the longline mainline to the boat to avoid that any remaining gear in the water pulls on the line and the animal.
- Bring the marlin as close to the vessel as possible without putting too much tension on the branchline to avoid that a released hook or branchline breaks could shoot hook, weights and other parts toward the vessels at high speed.
- Do not remove the alive marlin from the water boatside, while safely removing the hook.
- Limit the number of manipulation.
- Do not gaff the fish in the body.
- If possible, avoid grabbing the marlin by the body and use gloves to grab the marlin by its snout or a snooter.
- In case the hook is visible, lightly flicking the branchline to try dislodging the hook.
- Where feasible rig a measuring device so the fish can be roughly measured in the water (e.g. mark a pole, leader and float; mark the gunwale of the boat with measurements marks).
- If the marlin is vigorously twisting and spinning making it too dangerous to use a dehooker/disgorger or the marlin swallowed the hook that cannot be seen, then use a long-handled line cutter and cut the leader/line as close to the fish as safely possible so that they are not trailing large amounts of line that could reduce post-release survival.
- Help revive the fish by slowly towing it in the water until its colour or energy returns (5 minutes or more). Most highly migratory species must keep water flowing over their gills to breathe. With the boat in gear, slowly move forward while keeping the fish's head in the water.
- If hooked, and hook is visible in the body or mouth, use a bolt cutter to remove the hook barb, and then remove the hook.
- Don't wrap your fingers, hands or arms in the line when bringing a marlin to the boat – you might get pulled overboard.
- Don't lift them using the branchline, especially if hooked.
- Do not lift using thin wires or cables or by the tail alone.

[1] https://www.bmis-bycatch.org/index.php/mitigation-techniques/safe-handling-release
- Poisson F., Wendling B., Cornella D., Segorb C., 2016. Guide du pêcheur responsable : Bonnes pratiques pour réduire la mortalité des espèces sensibles capturées accidentellement par les palangriers pélagiques français en Méditerranée. Projets SELPAL et RéPAST. 60 pages.
- Poisson F., Vernet A. L., Séret B., Dagorn L. Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners. EU FP7 project #210496 MADE, Deliverable 7.2., 30p.
- AFMA (2016) Shark and Ray Handling Practices - A guide for commercial fishers in southern Australia.
- NOAA fisheries, 2017, Careful Catch and Release Brochure. 2 pages.

Appendix 6

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish

(submitted by Belize)

~~*RECALLING* the 2000 blue marlin stock assessment, which found that the stock was below BMSY (overfished) with fishing mortality above FMSY (overfishing occurring), and subsequent assessments, most recently in 2018, confirming that the stock remains in this state;~~

~~*ACKNOWLEDGING* the 2019 white marlin/roundscale spearfish stock assessment, which found that overfishing is not occurring, but the stock remains overfished after more than twenty years of management by ICCAT;~~

CONSIDERING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05), which established annual landing limits of 1,670 t for blue marlin and 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish;

NOTING that the 2024 North Atlantic blue marlin stock assessment concluded that the stock while still overfished was no longer subject to overfishing, and that the 2025 white marlin stock assessment, while recognizing that species misidentification of roundscale spearfish introduces uncertainty into the assessment, concluded that similarly the stock was overfished but no longer undergoing overfishing, indicating improvement in the status of both North Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish stocks;

RECALLING the joint statement made by Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago at the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission advocating for special considerations for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to promote food security and support development opportunities in large pelagic fisheries;

RECOGNIZING that marlins have historically supported and continue to support important artisanal, commercial and recreational/sports fisheries that make significant socioeconomic contributions, especially to food security, livelihood protection and cultural practices in Caribbean SIDS, and also noting the significant role in management and conservation that recreational/sports fisheries play through their tag and release practices;

AWARE that marlins are naturally abundant throughout the year in areas under the national jurisdiction of the Caribbean SIDS and are therefore usually caught opportunistically by the multi-gear fisheries of these countries, and that these marlins are not traditionally discarded because of their integral socio-economic contribution value to the countries concerned, which is in line with several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular 1, 2, 8, 14 and 17;

MINDFUL of Article 24 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), which requires that the Commission take into account the special requirements of developing States, and in particular SIDS, in the adoption of conservation and management measures, inter alia the need to ensure that management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States;

COGNIZANT that other RFMOs such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) have comprehensively adopted conservation and management measures reflective of transitioning to a more equitable allocation framework per Article 30 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, which requires the WCPFC to take into account the special requirements of developing States Parties, in particular SIDS, and of territories and possessions, in particular "the vulnerability of developing States Parties, in particular small island developing States, which are dependent on the exploitation of marine living resources, including for meeting the nutritional requirements of their populations or parts thereof" and further "ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and Territories";

RECOGNIZING that the proposed amendments to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) references the requirement to "give full recognition to the special requirements of developing Members of the Commission, including the need for their capacity building in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries";

EMPHASIZING, therefore, the need for specific attention to the burden of conservation action through application of equitable provisions in ICCAT Recommendations.

RECALLING that the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13), recognizes for qualifying participants, the economic, social, and cultural importance of stocks to developing coastal States, in particular SIDS, which depend heavily on these resources for food security, livelihoods, employment, and income generation, and acknowledges the historic participation of their fishing vessels in these fisheries within the Convention area, as well as their right to engage in sustainable fishing activities on the high seas consistent with ICCAT measures;

FURTHER RECALLING that Res. 15-13 specifies conditions for application of allocation criteria, including: "allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants", and "allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the developing States of the region and other fishing States for the sustainable use of the stocks managed by ICCAT and in accordance with the relevant international instruments", which are met when such allocations are compatible with the respective societal, economic and nutritional needs of CPCs;

CONCERNED that in this context, the current provisions of Rec. 19-05 relating to overage penalties, with associated compounded reductions, and no carryover of underage are inconsistent with provisions of Res. 15-13 for creating a fair and equitable conservation burden sharing arrangement in which Caribbean SID CPCs fisheries can continue to operate viably, while ensuring cooperation for sustainable use;

CONCLUDING, therefore, that special provisions are urgently needed for Caribbean SID CPCs, in accordance with Res. 15-13 and including its conditions for application, thereby giving attention to the record of traditional and socio-economic dependence of Caribbean SID CPCs on the marlin fisheries, and to the need for creating a fair and equitable conservation burden, and hence provisions which support viable fishing opportunities for these States that are tailored for their practical cooperation in sustainable use, and pending establishment of revised blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish catch quota allocations;

~~*AWARE OF* measures adopted by the Commission over the last 20 years to improve the status of blue marlins and white marlins, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* (Rec. 00-13), *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin stocks* (Rec. 12-04), and subsequent recommendations;~~

~~*UNDERSTANDING*, however, the 2019 SCRS advice that total catches of blue marlin should be reduced to 1,750 t or less to provide at least a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028 and that total catches of white marlin/roundscale spearfish should not exceed 400 t to support rebuilding;~~

~~*ACKNOWLEDGING* that dead discards are not accounted for in the annual limits in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04);~~

~~*AIMING* to establish limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that take into account reported dead discards;~~

~~*UNDERSCORING* the existing obligations of CPCs to require the collection of data on dead and live discards in their domestic observer and logbook programs under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 11-10), consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* (Rec. 16-14), and to report these data to ICCAT;~~

RECOGNIZING that the resource is present in the waters of coastal communities and this measure should reflect a rational use of the resource;~~.~~

UNDERSCORING fleets that do not target marlins should not be allowed to keep them (it is an opportunistic bycatch) and these fleets have no incentive to increase the survivability of the species especially where no mechanism exists to verify the condition of the fish at haulback.

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

1. CPCs shall implement measures to end overfishing of blue marlin as soon as possible and to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish stocks to their respective BMSY levels as follows:

Annual limits and related provisions

2. ~~An~~ The annual ~~limit of~~TAC ~~1,670 t for blue marlin~~ shall be 1,670 t for blue marlin and ~~of~~ 355 t for white marlin/roundscale spearfish ~~is established~~ beginning in 2020. Landings limits shall be implemented as follows:

Blue Marlin	*Landings Limit (t)*
Brazil	XX~~159.8~~
China, P.R.	XX~~37.9~~
Chinese Taipei	XX~~126.2~~
Côte d'Ivoire	XX~~126.2~~
European Union[1]	XX~~403.8~~
Ghana	XX ~~210.3~~
Japan	XX ~~328.1~~
Korea Rep.	XX ~~29.4~~
Mexico	XX ~~58.9~~
S. Tomé & Príncipe	XX~~37.9~~
Senegal	XX~~50.5~~
Trinidad and Tobago	XX~~16.8~~
Venezuela	XX~~84.1~~
TOTAL	XX~~1,670~~

[1] The following transfer of annual landings limit shall be authorized for blue marlin: From EU to Trinidad & Tobago: 2 t.

White Marlin/Roundscale Spearfish	*Landings Limit (t)*
Barbados	XX~~10~~
Brazil	XX~~50~~
Canada	XX~~10~~
China, P.R.	XX~~10~~
Chinese Taipei	XX~~50~~
European Union	XX~~50~~
Côte d'Ivoire	XX~~10~~
Japan	XX~~35~~
Korea Rep.	XX~~20~~
Mexico	XX~~25~~
S. Tomé & Príncipe	XX~~20~~
Trinidad and Tobago	XX~~15~~
Venezuela	XX~~50~~
TOTAL	XX~~355~~

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish combined on an annual basis. All other CPCs shall limit their landings to a maximum of 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin and 2 t of white marlin/roundscale spearfish combined.

3. a) Any excess of the annual landings limits established in paragraph 2 shall be deducted from the respective landings limits during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

Catch Year	*Adjustment Year*
~~2019~~2026	~~2021~~2028
~~2020~~2027	~~2022~~2029
~~2021~~2028	~~2023~~2030
~~2022~~2029	~~2024~~2031
~~2023~~	~~2025~~
~~2024~~	~~2026~~

b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) above, if any CPC exceeds its landings limit during any two consecutive years, its landings limit shall be reduced on or before the adjustment year by at least 125% of the excess harvest, and the Commission may recommend additional actions, as appropriate.

Commented [RR1]: increasing landing limit should remove the issue of punitive payback

c) ~~Starting with 2020 catches, A~~any underharvest by a CPC of its annual landings limit may not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

Live release requirement and retention allowances

4. ~~To the extent possible,~~ CPCs shall require pelagic longline vessels and purse seine vessels flying their flag to promptly release blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish ~~that are alive at haul-back~~, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members, in a manner that causes the least harm and maximizes post-release survival.

5. CPCs shall encourage the implementation of the minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures, as specified in **Annex 1** while giving due consideration to the safety of the crew. The fishing vessels should have readily available on deck and easily accessible by crew, a lifting device, bolt cutter, dehooker/disgorger and line-cutter for safe release of live marlins caught.

6. CPCs should ensure that captain and crew members of their fishing vessels are adequately trained, aware of and use proper mitigation, identification, handling and releasing techniques and keep on board all equipment necessary for the release of marlins in accordance with the minimum standards for safe handling procedures as specified in **Annex 1**. Nothing in this measure shall prevent CPCs from adopting more stringent measures.

7. CPCs shall endeavor to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/roundscale spearfish in their ICCAT fisheries.

8. Once a CPC reaches its landing limits as established in paragraph 2, all catches of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish shall be discarded.

~~8. CPCs may authorize their pelagic longline and purse seine vessels to catch and retain on board, transship, or land blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are dead, within their landing limit.~~

9. ~~For CPCs that prohibit dead discards~~In derogation to paragraph 8, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale 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 in paragraph 2, on the condition that ~~such~~ the prohibition be clearly explained in their Annual Report. This provision shall be applicable only to commercial fisheries.

10. Blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are caught for local consumption by developing coastal CPCs, or by other CPCs' small island, artisanal, subsistence, and small-scale coastal fisheries are exempted from Paragraph 4 provided these CPCs (a) submit Task 1~~I~~ and Task 2~~II~~ data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS and (b) in the case of non-developing coastal CPCs, notify the Commission of their claim to this exemption and measures taken to limit application of this exemption to such fisheries.

11. For recreational and sport fisheries:

    a) CPCs shall take appropriate measures to ensure that any released fish are released in a manner that causes the least harm.
    b) CPCs shall establish minimum sizes for retention that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm Lower Jaw-Fork Length (LJFL) for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/roundscale spearfish.
    c) CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/roundscale spearfish caught in recreational and sport fisheries.

Observer programme

12. CPCs shall collect catch data on blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, including live and dead discards, through logbooks and scientific observer programs as required by *Recommendation by ICCAT on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 11-10) and *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer program* (Rec. ~~-~~16-14~~)~~). CPCs shall include their estimates of total dead and live discards in their Task 1~~I~~ Nominal Catch data submission.

13. CPCs shall establish or maintain data collection programs in recreational and sport fisheries, including a minimum of 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish tournaments, to ensure that catches are reported in accordance with existing ICCAT reporting obligations.

Data collection and reporting

14. CPCs shall provide their estimates of total live and dead discards of blue marlin, white marlin/roundscale spearfish, based on fishing logbooks, landing declarations, or equivalent document for the sport/recreational fisheries, as well as scientific observer reports, as part of their Task 1I and 2II data submission to support the stock assessment process.

15. FStarting with the reporting of 2020 catches, failure to report Task 1I data, including dead discards, for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in accordance with established ICCAT requirements will result in a prohibition of retention of these species in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations* (Rec. 11-15).

16. No later than 2020, CPCs shall present to the SCRS the statistical methodology used to estimate dead and live discards. 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.

    The SCRS shall also determine if one or more capacity building workshops are warranted to help CPCs to comply with the requirement to report total live and dead discards. If so, the Secretariat in coordination with the SCRS should begin organizing the SCRS-recommended workshop(s) in 2021 with a view to convening them as soon as practicable.

17. The SCRS shall evaluate the completeness of Task 1I and I2I data submissions, including estimates of total dead and live discards, and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by industrial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), artisanal fisheries and recreational fisheries. If after conducting such evaluation, the SCRS determines that significant gaps in data reporting exist, the SCRS should explore approaches to estimate the level of unreported catches to include in future stock assessments in order to enhance the basis on which to provide management advice to the Commission.

SCRS work and request for scientific advice

18. The SCRS shall continue its work to further improve data collection initiatives as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries, in particular artisanal fisheries of developing CPCs to inform future decisions by the Commission.

19. The Secretariat, with support from the Commission and the SCRS, shall continue its review of the relevant work conducted by the regional and sub-regional international organizations, similar to the review conducted for West Africa, with a priority focus on the Caribbean and Latin America. The Secretariat and CPCs are also encouraged to collaborate with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) on fishery statistics on ICCAT species.

    Taking into account the findings of these regional reviews, the CPCs shall take action, as appropriate, to improve data collection and reporting programs in accordance with any SCRS advice in preparation for the next white marlin/roundscale spearfish and blue marlin stock assessments.

20. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall work to develop recommendations on the following issues for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting of the Commission:

    a) Minimum standard for an electronic monitoring system such as:

~~(i) the minimum specification of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity, data storage type, data protection)~~

~~(ii) the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board~~

~~b) What shall be recorded~~

~~c) Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence~~

~~d) Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details~~

~~e) Reporting format to the Secretariat~~

~~In 2020 CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the PWG and the SCRS in 2021 for their review.~~

~~21~~20. The SCRS shall, in collaboration with CPCs, explore potential technical changes to the terminal gear (such as hook shape, hook size, leader type, etc.) and fishing practices (e.g., timing, soaking time, bait, depths, areas) that could reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality (at-vessel and post-release). As part of this process, the SCRS in collaboration with CPCs shall design and implement a study(ies) to compare the effects of hook shape and size on catch rates (considering both hooking and retention rates), at-haulback mortality, and post-release mortality. The experimental design should account for the influence of leader material types and consider potential operational differences among regions and fleets.

~~22~~21. The SCRS shall conduct assessments for blue marlin in ~~2024~~ 20XX and white marlin/roundscale spearfish in ~~2025~~20XX.

Compliance

~~23~~22. Consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention aArea* (Rec. 18-05), CPCs shall submit details of their implementation of this measure through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, and of their compliance with this measure using the billfish check sheet.

Repeals and review clause

~~24~~23. T~~In 2022, t~~he Commission shall review any new scientific advice from the SCRS and consider adjustments, such as the adoption of additional conservation and management measures or review of the landing limits, as appropriate.

~~25~~24. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) and *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06) ~~[*Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04)]~~.

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Annex 1 to Appendix 6

Minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures[1]

The following steps should be followed to reduce stress and injury to incidentally caught marlins and round scale spearfish specimens for a maximum probability of survival while minimizing the safety risk to the crew. Skippers and crew should always put their personal safety first when releasing marlins and other large fish. Wear gloves and avoid working around the spear-shaped bill. These basic guidelines do not replace stricter safety rules established by CPCs national Authorities.

- Stop the vessel or substantially reduce its speed.
- Secure the far side of the longline mainline to the boat to avoid that any remaining gear in the water pulls on the line and the animal.
- Bring the marlin as close to the vessel as possible without putting too much tension on the branchline to avoid that a released hook or branchline breaks could shoot hook, weights and other parts toward the vessels at high speed.
- Do not remove the alive marlin from the water boatside, while safely removing the hook.
- Limit the number of manipulation.
- Do not gaff the fish in the body.
- If possible, avoid grabbing the marlin by the body and use gloves to grab the marlin by its snout or a snooter.
- In case the hook is visible, lightly flicking the branchline to try dislodging the hook.
- Where feasible rig a measuring device so the fish can be roughly measured in the water (e.g. mark a pole, leader and float; mark the gunwale of the boat with measurements marks).
- If the marlin is vigorously twisting and spinning making it too dangerous to use a dehooker/disgorger or the marlin swallowed the hook that cannot be seen, then use a long-handled line cutter and cut the leader/line as close to the fish as safely possible so that they are not trailing large amounts of line that could reduce post-release survival.
- Help revive the fish by slowly towing it in the water until its colour or energy returns (5 minutes or more). Most highly migratory species must keep water flowing over their gills to breathe. With the boat in gear, slowly move forward while keeping the fish's head in the water.
- If hooked, and hook is visible in the body or mouth, use a bolt cutter to remove the hook barb, and then remove the hook.
- Don't wrap your fingers, hands or arms in the line when bringing a marlin to the boat – you might get pulled overboard.
- Don't lift them using the branchline, especially if hooked.
- Do not lift using thin wires or cables or by the tail alone.

[1] https://www.bmis-bycatch.org/index.php/mitigation-techniques/safe-handling-release
- Poisson F., Wendling B., Cornella D., Segorb C., 2016. Guide du pêcheur responsable : Bonnes pratiques pour réduire la mortalité des espèces sensibles capturées accidentellement par les palangriers pélagiques français en Méditerranée. Projets SELPAL et RéPAST. 60 pages.
- Poisson F., Vernet A. L., Séret B., Dagorn L. Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners. EU FP7 project #210496 MADE, Deliverable 7.2., 30p.
- AFMA (2016) Shark and Ray Handling Practices - A guide for commercial fishers in southern Australia.

Appendix 7

Discussion paper on key differences between PA4_04/i2026 and PA4_05/i2026

(submitted by Belize and United States)

Belize and the United States tabled documents PA4_04/i2026 and PA4_05/i2026, respectively, for consideration of Panel 4 at the July 2026 intersessional meeting. Both proposals are entitled "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish."

While the proposals share numerous commonalities, key differences merit further discussion. These points are articulated below. This paper represents a working document. Any omissions below are incidental and can be rectified during review by the Panel. Minor differences, such as those in paragraphs 9 and 16, are not presented here.

Management structure

PA4_04 (Belize proposal)	*PA4_05 (United States proposal)*
Paragraph 2 - Establishes TACs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish. With this change, the landings limit tables would become quota tables. Together with a retention prohibition for longline and purse seine vessels, CPCs eligible for retention could receive an increase from current landings limits.	Paragraph 2 - Maintains language from Rec. 19-05

Overages and penalty

PA4_04	*PA4_05*
Paragraph 3b - Comments that the increase of limits for developing CPCs could serve to avoid likelihood of overages and subsequent penalty	Paragraph 3b - Clarifies how and when the overage penalty is applied to ensure CPCs are only penalized when appropriate. These edits will provide relief to CPCs to ensure the penalty is not applied incorrectly.

Transfer to relieve debt

PA4_04	*PA4_05*
N/A	Paragraph 3d - allows transfers from CPCs on the landings limits tables to other CPCs for the sole purpose of repaying overharvest, consistent with proposals considered in 2025 and to further address issues affecting developing coastal CPCs.

Mortality mitigation

PA4_04	*PA4_05*
N/A	Paragraph 3bis - In order to minimize injury and maximize post-release survival, this paragraph would require the use of large circle hooks for vessels that use shallow-set longlines (consistent with the definitions in Rec. 22-12)

Retention provisions

PA4_04	*PA4_05*
Paragraph 4 - Requires pelagic longline vessels and purse seine vessels to promptly release all blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish and report dead discards. In other words, those vessels may not retain any of these species.	Paragraph 4- Maintains language from Rec. 19-05

PA4_05/i2026 also contains additional substantive edits to Recommendation 19-05. Those are outlined below (copied from the original proposal of the United States, PA4_05/i2026).

- **Paragraph 12** - given progress made by the Commission in adopting 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), these edits will allow CPCs to use EMS to complement the required level of human observer coverage and the required tasks to be performed by these human observers.

- **Paragraph 15bis** - edits to highlight the importance of using the Bycatch Estimation Tool (BYET) tool to promote submission of discard data.

- **Paragraph 15tris** - the modification of fishing practices or behaviors can potentially result in the reduction of bycatch and mortality. If a CPC is successful in doing so, it is critically important that these advancements be shared with others as CPCs jointly attempt to promote recovery of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish.

- **Paragraph 21** - revision to take into account the information sharing provided by paragraph 15tris and to allow the SCRS to focus on reviewing available scientific literature instead of developing new collaborative research to answer questions that may have already been sufficiently studied, including as described above for proposed paragraph 3bis.

Appendix 8

The situation of Costa Rica as regards excess harvest of Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)
(document submitted by Costa Rica)

Background

Costa Rica is a country located in Central America which obtained the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party in 2016, and has been a Contracting Party to ICCAT since 7 June 2024, under the terms of the Convention as amended by the Protocol of Palma de Mallorca. In the Caribbean, it has a small artisanal fleet of vessels, all under 20 m in length, which operates within its Exclusive Economic Zone, with no fishing operations in international waters.

Costa Rica's main artisanal commercial fleet that catches Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) in the Caribbean uses surface longline gear and engages in multi-species fishing, as it catches other species of fishing interest such as tuna, sharks and swordfish, amongst others. This fleet has been declining considerably in size over time. In 2019, a record high of twelve longliners were recorded making landings, down to just two longliners today, representing an 83% reduction in fleet size over the last seven years.

The Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA) is the national fisheries authority. Its fisheries statistics databases contain records of Atlantic blue marlin landings dating back to 1999. The year with the highest landings of this species was 2017, when a total of 73.75 t was recorded.

Excess harvest and application of the 125% penalty

The *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) set a landing limit for Costa Rica of just 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin. From 2016 onwards, taking into account the country's cumulative catches, excess harvests began to be recorded, and from 2021 a 125% penalty began to be applied to excess harvest. This penalty has artificially inflated the excess harvest as in the case of "excessive credit card interest", and payback would be impossible with its small fleet, leading to a continuous increase in the excess harvest until it reached extreme figures that do not correspond to actual excess harvest, but rather to an artificially inflated figure.

Currently, with the accumulated excess harvest and the application of the penalty, Costa Rica was recorded as having an excess harvest of 447.64 t. Given that the country has a landing limit of just 10 t, it would have to cease catching this species for around half a century in order to pay back the excess harvest, which is not possible. The country joined ICCAT in 2024 as a Contracting Party under unequal conditions and at a disadvantage, with a debt that is unpayable.

This proposal seeks a mechanism that ensures Costa Rica is treated in a proportionate and balanced manner – one that is non-discriminatory and realistic – enabling it to make effective use of at least the meagre catch limit allocated to it, through a fleet that is entirely artisanal, with the relevant social implications, and linked to the domestic market.

Actions taken by Costa Rica

1. Monitoring and control

In Costa Rica, inspections are carried out on 100% of landings by vessels using surface longlines that catch ICCAT species; these inspections are recorded on a Landing Inspection Form (FID), which is completed by an INCOPESCA inspector. In addition, the vessel's captain records information in a Fishing Operations Logbook and a Fishing Sets Record, both of which are handed over to the inspector during landing. VMS monitoring is mandatory for this fleet. Furthermore, biological sampling is carried out during landings to collect biological data on the catch. Furthermore, the National Coastguard Service carries out surveillance operations at sea.

2. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 containing historical catch data

From the outset, Costa Rica has been transparent regarding information on its fisheries in the Caribbean. In 2022, historical data on surface longline landings from 1999 to 2020 were submitted to the SCRS through scientific document SCRS/2022/161, which included data on landings of Atlantic blue marlin, amongst other species.

3. Collaboration with the ICCAT project in the Caribbean region (western Atlantic) to improve collection and reporting of statistical data on small-scale (artisanal) fisheries

This project specifically aims to improve fisheries statistics for billfishes in the Caribbean, such as Atlantic blue marlin. Costa Rica has actively collaborated on this initiative by sending national scientists to workshops organised by the ICCAT Secretariat in Panama. Furthermore, it has provided logistical support, scientific collaboration, transport and assistance to ICCAT consultants during field visits in 2025 and 2026. The country is fully committed to continuing to collaborate on processes to improve fisheries statistics, as it recognises the value these represent as a basis for stock assessments and the sustainable management of these resources.

4. Support for the "Statement by Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and St Vincent and the Grenadines regarding concerns about landing limits for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (PA4_819_SPONS/2024)

During the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission held in Cyprus in November 2024, Costa Rica supported the statement by Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which are Caribbean island nations, outlining their situation, concerns and claims, whose situation proved to be very similar to that of Costa Rica. This statement referred to the problem of excess harvest, the application of unfair penalties, and the need for catch limits that are in line with the actual needs of the fisheries of developing coastal countries.

5. Presentation of draft recommendations on Atlantic blue marlin at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission

During the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission in Seville in November 2025, Costa Rica presented a draft recommendation entitled: "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (PA4_806/2025), which sought to suspend the application of penalties for developing CPCs, as well as authorise transfers from other CPCs, for the purpose of paying back excess harvest. Furthermore, the delegation of Costa Rica made an express request both during the Meeting of Panel 4 and in the Plenary sessions of the Commission that no excess harvest be recorded against it and that the 125% penalty on excess harvest not be applied.

Barbados, Belize, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica submitted the draft recommendation entitled: "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05", (PA4_809C/2025) which was adopted by the Commission (*Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06)), and exempts them from the 125% penalty on excess harvest during 2024 and 2025, whilst also granting them a catch limit of 20 t for 2025 and 2026. The adoption of this Recommendation provides temporary relief for developing coastal CPCs in the Caribbean that face the same problem.

During the Plenary sessions in November 2025 in Seville, it was evident that CPCs gained awareness of the problem faced by developing coastal CPCs in the Caribbean as regards excess harvest of billfishes, and there is a willingness to find a solution to the problem.

6. Establishment of a landing limit of 7.5 t

In 2026, Costa Rica's fisheries authority, INCOPESCA, adopted Regulation AJDIP/036-2026, which establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t for Atlantic blue marlin, amongst other measures, in compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-05.

Costa Rica's request as regards excess harvest

Costa Rica requests that no accumulated excess harvest be attributed to it, nor any penalties applied to its landings of Atlantic blue marlin. Furthermore, it requests that a landing limit be allocated to it that is consistent with its historical landings, which would allow its artisanal fleet to continue catching this species, which appears to be particularly abundant in the Caribbean.

Obliging the crews of Costa Rican artisanal vessels to discard Atlantic blue marlin would constitute a waste of the resource, which would contravene the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Furthermore, it would disregard the economic needs of coastal fishing communities and the special needs of developing States, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This would negatively affect the population of Costa Rica's Caribbean coast, which is already one of the areas with the most unfavourable socio-economic conditions in the country.

Costa Rica requests that CPCs consider this request as an act of responsible management, in recognition of the fact that the country's historical catches were not recorded because Costa Rica had no obligations towards ICCAT; however, upon joining ICCAT, it has implemented the necessary measures to comply with the multilateral regulations. Nevertheless, Costa Rica appeals to reason so that, in the light of these circumstances, the exemption referred to above may be granted, enabling it to continue to carry out this fishing activity responsibly; the livelihoods of impoverished families, who rely heavily on fishing due to their long-standing ties to the industry, depend on it.

Costa Rica would like to thank you in advance for considering this request and for its favourable resolution.

Appendix 9

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the proportionate treatment of Grenada regarding billfish management and excess harvest under Recommendation 19-05

(submitted by Grenada)

CONSIDERING that Grenada, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), has been a Contracting Party to ICCAT since 2018, that Grenada operates a predominantly artisanal and small-scale fishing fleet, comprised mainly of vessels under 20 m in length, operating primarily within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), that these fisheries are multi-species in nature, targeting tunas and billfishes, including Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, that the fisheries sector remains of critical socio-economic importance, contributing significantly to food security, employment, and the livelihoods of coastal communities;

RECOGNIZING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05) established rebuilding programmes and associated management measures for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, that the application of the 125% penalty on excess harvest has resulted in disproportionate and cumulative compliance burdens for developing coastal CPCs, including Grenada, and that small-scale and artisanal fisheries possess limited capacity to offset accumulated excess harvest, particularly under compounded penalty mechanisms;

RECOGNIZING that at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission in Seville in November 2025, the five member group of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) SIDS presented the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish" (PA4_806/2025), which requested a suspension of the application of penalties for developing CPCs, as well as authorize transfers from other CPCs to paying back excess harvest. Furthermore, the delegation of Costa Rica made an express request both during the Meeting of Panel 4 and in the Plenary sessions of the Commission that no excess harvest be recorded against it and that the 125% penalty on excess harvest be dismissed;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that Grenada, Barbados, Belize, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica submitted the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05", (PA4_809C/2025) which was adopted by the Commission (*Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (Rec. 25-06)), and exempts them from the 125% penalty on excess harvest during 2024 and 2025, whilst also granting them a catch limit of 20 t for 2025 and 2026. The adoption of this Recommendation ensures relief temporarily of developing coastal CPCs in the Caribbean and Central America;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the during the Plenary sessions in Seville in November 2025, CPCs gained awareness of the significant challenges faced by developing coastal Caribbean and Central American CPCs regarding the over harvest of billfishes, and there is a willingness to find a solution to the problem;

NOTING that Recommendation 25-06 provides temporary relief measures, including i) an exemption from the application of the 125% penalty for 2024 and 2025, and ii) the establishment of a provisional combined catch limit of 20 t for Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish for the period 2025-2026; that no independent allocation exists for white marlin, which is currently managed within the combined limit; that management measures applicable to North Atlantic swordfish impose additional operational and compliance constraints on small-scale, multi-species fisheries;

ACKNOWLEDGING Grenada's continued efforts to enhance compliance and fisheries governance, including: i) the planned phased implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on at least 20 fishing vessels; ii) the adoption and implementation of the Calipseo fisheries data management platform, aimed at improving data collection, validation, and reporting processes; iii) participation in ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) training, strengthening national capacity for data submission and compliance monitoring; iv) engagement in regional and ICCAT-led capacity building and scientific cooperation initiatives; v) introduction of vessel logbooks; and vi) issuing and monitoring of no quota limits for roundscale spearfish and not taking North Atlantic swordfish;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to ensure that ICCAT conservation and management measures are implemented in a manner consistent with: i) the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; ii) the recognition of the special requirements of developing States under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and iii) the principles of equity, proportionality, and non-discrimination;

IN VIEW OF the current provisional billfish catch limits under Recommendation 25-06 are as follows:

CPC (Country)	*Combined blue marlin + white marlin limit (t)*	*Remarks*
Grenada	20	Combined allocation
Trinidad and Tobago	20	Provisional measure
Barbados	20	Artisanal fisheries context
St Vincent and the Grenadines	20	Multi-species fisheries
Belize	20	Small-scale fleet

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

1. Excess harvest considerations

The Commission shall review the accumulated excess harvest attributed to Grenada, considering its artisanal fleet structure, historical circumstances, and capacity constraints, with a view to ensuring proportionality.

2. Application of the 125% penalty

The application of the 125% penalty shall be suspended, adjusted, or otherwise modified for developing coastal CPCs, including Grenada, in order to avoid disproportionate burdens.

3. Review of catch limits

The Commission shall review the adequacy of the current provisional 20 t combined catch limit, taking into consideration:

- historical catch patterns;
- the multi-species nature of artisanal fisheries;
- and socio-economic dependencies.

4. Consideration of cumulative regulatory impacts

ICCAT shall consider the cumulative impact of billfish measures and North Atlantic swordfish regulations on small-scale fisheries.

5. Special consideration for SIDS

The Commission shall ensure that the specific needs and constraints of SIDS, including Grenada, are duly recognized.

6. Support for capacity development

ICCAT shall continue to support Grenada's efforts to strengthen:

- VMS implementation;
- Calipseo data systems;
- and IOMS training and reporting capacity.

7. Avoidance of unnecessary discards

Conservation measures shall be applied in a manner that minimizes unnecessary discards of billfish species, consistent with responsible fisheries practices.

Final provisions

Grenada reiterates its commitment to the sustainable management of highly migratory species and to continued constructive engagement within ICCAT.

The Commission is invited to adopt measures ensuring equitable, and practical implementation of conservation requirements.

The Commission is further invited to assist and guide CPC Grenada in submission of a quota for the sustainable harvesting of North Atlantic swordfish (SWO-N).

Appendix 10

Situation of Barbados in relation to the marlin fisheries
Description of the fishery

(submitted by Barbados)

Although marlins have been landed by Barbadian fishers and consumed by the Barbadian public for centuries, catches of these highly migratory species increased significantly through the introduction of longline gear to the local fishery in the late 1980's, eventually accounting for around 90% of total local landings of these species. In this context it should be noted that marlins are also taken opportunistically, but with significantly lower frequency, by other local commercial fleets especially the iceboat fleet as well as the recreational fishing fleet. Conversely the vessels that fish with longline gear, and are familiarly referred to as longliners, also participate in other traditional fisheries, such as the fishery for flyingfish and associated large pelagics, primarily the common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), using the conventional fishing methods and gears in these fisheries, specifically a gillnet to capture flyingfish (predominately *Hirundichthys affinis*) and handlines to capture the common dolphinfish, its main predator species.

As tunas, particularly yellowfin and bigeye, are the main target species in the context of the longline fishery, for this fishery marlins may be considered as incidental retained bycatch species, which are sold and only consumed locally. It should be noted that marlins are abundant within the fishing range of Barbados fishing vessels and as such their capture by longline gear is almost inevitable. However, it must also be stressed that these species contribute significantly to the island's food security and food self-sufficiency. In the context of the latter, as is the case for most Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Barbados heavily relies on imported foods, including fish products. For example, according to FAO Globefish 2023 Market Profile for Barbados, the island's average fish consumption rate was 43.2 kg/capita, with local fish production augmented with a total of USD 36.7 million of fish and fish products imported into the island. Notably by comparison just over USD 1.2 million of fish exported, a major proportion of which was comprised of tunas.

In the context of local fish production, the composition of the total fish catch of Barbados has historically been dominated by flyingfish (average 64%, 1997-2010) and dolphinfish (average 20%, 1997-2010). However, mass incursions of sargassum into the fishing range of the local fishing fleets in nearly every year since 2011, with increasing frequency and intensity annually, have resulted in significant reductions in catches of these keystone species. This is due, primarily by making it difficult or impossible to set the flyingfish nets and reducing the functionality of the use of "screelers" (simple temporary fish attracting devices comprised of bundles of sugar cane or coconut fronds attached to the boat by a length of rope) in drawing and aggregating the fish within the fishing range of the boat, as well as reducing the concomitant numbers of predatory dolphinfish drawn to the vessels. Furthermore, the observed reduction in catch rates of these species has also led to a reduction in fishing effort as fishers are less assured of even recovering their investment in the fishery, leading to a cyclic domino effect in reducing the island's catches of these species and by extension the island's local fish supply, as well as wider negative impacts on the island's economy. As such, the overall average annual catches of flyingfish and dolphinfish during the period 2011-2023 was around 31% and 46% of the overall respective mean annual catches of these species during the period before the onset of the sargassum impacts, i.e. before 2011. Against this backdrop, catches of other fish species including marlins have become even more important in supplementing the island's reduced supply of fresh fish and by extension food security.

In addition to the direct financial contribution of marlins to the livelihoods of local fisherfolk, marlins are served at several restaurants and local eateries as well as at the several "fish-frys" around the island. At these fish-frys the fish are prepared (primarily fried or grilled) and served with a variety of other local starches and vegetables, mainly in coastal settings. Oistin's Bay Gardens, which is the largest "fish-fry" on the island has, for many years, been rated as one of Barbados's top tourist attractions. As such marlins also significantly contribute to the livelihoods of many persons along the fish value chain, as well as in the broader sense, to the island's economy, particularly its tourism revenue.

By 2025 there were 52 vessels registered as "longliners" in the Barbados fishing fleet ranging in size from 9.8m to 17.4m LOA (mean - 13.4m LOA). There are no foreign-owned vessels in the Barbados fishing fleet with all vessels also being home-based. As is the norm, only a portion of the registered fleet, actively fish during any given year and as such only 37 longliners actively fished in 2025.

The sport fishery in Barbados is considered to be of high cultural and economic importance contributing significantly to the island's tourism industry, which is considered as the primary driver of the Barbadian economy, directly and indirectly contributing between 30% and 45% to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Based on preliminary findings, the island's sport fishery itself contributes significantly to the local economy, primarily through tournament hosting and charter fishing. There are an estimated 200 sport fishers currently active in Barbados with 30 active sport fishing vessels in Barbados in 2025.

Sport and Recreational fishing vessels were previously registered with the Barbados Maritime Transport Administration (BMTA), a department under the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport.

However, sport and recreational Fishing Vessels must now be registered directly with the Barbados Fisheries Division and this process officially commenced from 8 June 2026. Vesting registration of the sport and recreational fishing fleet with the Fisheries Division will facilitate improved monitoring and regulation, as well as data collection, to ensure the sustainable management of this important fishery.

Improvements in legislative framework, data collection and Monitoring, Control, Surveillance, and Enforcement (MCS&E)

The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2025 (SFMDA (2025) and the sister Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Business) Act, 2025 came into force on 12 May 2025. Along with subsidiary regulations, this body of legislation effectuates comprehensive regulation of the harvest and post-harvest sectors.

Barbados is well advanced in the modernization of its fisheries data collection systems to enhance traceability, vessel safety at sea, and MCS&E for sustainable fisheries management. To facilitate this transformation, the staff complement of the Fisheries Division has been increased over the last three years and has now included the onboarding of two Fisheries Biologists and a Data Analyst as well as additional data collectors, to support the necessary collation and analysis of landings statistics. To this end, in addition to the continued digitization of the daily fish landings data collected from the major markets, additional data on fish catches, fishing trip details, and economic information is now routinely collected by the data collectors at all landings sites including main markets and both previously poorly monitored and unmonitored sites. This data is directly digitized through the Kobo Toolbox.

Under the SFMDA (2025) all fishing vessels will by law have to carry remote tracking devices. In this regard, by the end of April 2026, a total of 128 Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) were installed on local fishing vessels including 24 sport fishing vessels, with VMS being installed on all actively fishing longliners. Detailed information on on-board fishing activities including AI monitoring of the catches allowing for species identification and estimation of catch weights etc., is being achieved with Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) initially installed on longliners. Currently three vessels (nearly 10% of the active longliner fleet) have been outfitted to date with EMS equipment with the AI imbedded into this system being trained on the identification of ETP species relevant to Barbados and ICCAT landed by the longline fleet.

The SFMDA (2025) addresses the requirements for the Chief Fisheries Officer to establish an observer program. This includes the duties of an observer and the responsibilities of the owner of the vessel or facility in which a fisheries observer is placed. Pending subsidiary SFMDA regulations adds more details for the observer programs including that; the master of both a commercial or sport fishing vessel shall fully participate in any observer program authorised by the Chief Fisheries Officer including accommodating, as well as allowing the installation of any on board electronic surveillance equipment deemed necessary to allow the unimpeded observation of all on board fishing and related activities.

However, the majority of longliners in the Barbados fleet are less than 15 M LOA and the deck layout on these vessels does not practically permit the emplacement of independent human observers. As such, the Barbados observer program must be based mainly on the use of EMS as a viable substitute for the placement of on-board human observers. To this end, Barbados will duly submit its application to the SCRS for approval for the use of this EMS program as the basis of its domestic observer program.

Additionally, the Fisheries Division has installed two Smart Scales at two local fish landing sites that will gather data to identify species, perform digital biological sampling, determine catch locations, calculate fishing effort, analyze landings, and initiate the traceability certification process to enhance data collection for species identification, weight and length data and traceability certification, with training provided to market officials and tuna exporters.

Working with a local software engineer, the Barbados Fisheries Division developed the FIS-Ultra platform, a custom Fisheries Information Platform designed for Barbados. It features a robust database, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and a user-friendly dashboard to support evidence-based decision-making. The platform provides real-time data intake and analytics for various stakeholders, including fisheries management officials and the public. Notably, this facilitates, *inter alia*, tracking of catch rates and will facilitate rapid remedial responses to management issues such as the exceeding of harvest quotas and catch allocations.

Proposed fishing effort control strategies

Landings of Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Round-scale spearfish will be limited specifically through the following methods as supported in law through the Sustainable Fisheries Management Regulations subsidiary to the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2025 (SFMDA, 2025), once in force:

(a) longlines are not to be deployed, set or used with specialized fishing tackle; specific bait; or fishing technology, specifically to target billfish;
(b) only circle hooks of a size greater than 16/0, and not offset; or 18/0, with an offset no greater than 10 degrees are to be used on longlines;
(c) the incorporation of ICCAT minimum size regulations for marlins caught in the sport fishery.

In the context of the mandatory use of circle hooks, it should be noted that under the regional REBYC-III CLME+ project, being implemented by UWI St. Augustine in collaboration with the FAO, an experimental fishing exercise to test the effectiveness of circle hooks was conducted in October 2025, with promising results in relation to their potential for reducing the catch rates of marlins.

Rationales for increased quota/catch allocation for BUM and WHM

As noted earlier, the likelihood of incidentally catching marlins on longline gear in particular is very high. As such, there are limited options for specifically reducing marlin catches. Noting also that this will have severe detrimental financial and wider livelihood impacts on fisher folk and all persons along the fish value chain, as well as local food supply and food security concerns. Further, in this context, noting the increased importance of marlins and other fish species brought about by the near catastrophic sargassum-induced declines in catches of the traditional staple species, flyingfish and dolphinfish.

Under these circumstances, over the period of the ICCAT Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Round scale Spearfish stock rebuilding program, it has been difficult for Barbados to consistently constrain catches of these species within the respective assigned quotas/catch limits. Note also that Barbados was not a member of Panel 4, nor was the island nationally represented at any of the meetings where these quotas/catch limits were allocated. As illustrated in the compliance table there has been significant variation in the levels of overage over the period, especially in relation to BUM. Although in more recent years there has been a noticeable reduction in the annual overages for both species and indeed some years of marginal catch limit underage in some years, for both species. However, in this context, it should be noted that the largest underage, especially for BUM, was in 2024, and this was significantly influenced by the temporary reduction in the active longline fleet caused by the passage of Hurricane Beryl on 1 July 2024. Nevertheless, the large accrued overage debt has not been successfully ameliorated by this recent below-quota performance, further exacerbated by the application of the 25% penalty.

Barbados is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of its fisheries, and as indicated in this report, has made great strides, especially in recent years, to achieve these management objectives. The social and economic importance of marlins to the local fishing industry and the whole island has already been articulated in this report as well as being in simpatico with other Caribbean SIDS. While Recommendation 25-06 offers welcome, but only provisional relief, Barbados firmly reiterates the call for reasonable permanent increases in its national Quotas/catch limits of Blue and White Marlins/Round-scale Spearfish as well as review and revision of the penalty system as applied to marlin species to ensure a fair and equitable conservation burden sharing arrangement in which, as a Caribbean Small Island Developing State (SIDS) Contracting Party, Barbados fisheries in which marlins are taken, can continue to operate viably, while ensuring cooperation for sustainable use of these species.

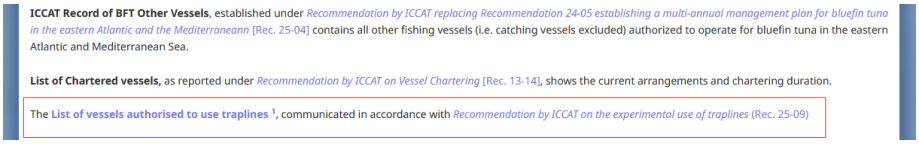
Appendix 11

Reporting operational information on the use of traplines

(submitted by the ICCAT Secretariat)

Following the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the experimental use of traplines* (Rec. 25-09), the Secretariat has developed a new electronic form, namely CP61-TrapLineVess, for CPCs to submit the list of vessels authorised to use traplines. This form can be downloaded from the "Swordfish" section of the List of 2026 Reporting Requirements for the Commission, under requirement M:SWO21.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 25-09, the ICCAT Secretariat has made available on its website, under the ICCAT Record of Vessels section, the list of vessels authorised to use traplines.



Additionally, and in accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 25-09, the ICCAT Secretariat developed and circulated form ST13–TrapLines to support the harmonised collection of operational information on the experimental use of traplines. The form was distributed to CPCs on 30 December 2025, inviting comments and suggestions prior to its review by the SCRS. This form can also be downloaded from the "Swordfish" section of the List of Reporting Requirements for the SCRS in 2026, under requirement S:SWO02.

Form ST13 was reviewed during the Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics (Online, 24-25 February 2026), where several improvements were agreed. The Secretariat subsequently incorporated the agreed changes and circulated the revised ST13 form. The information collected through ST13 will be made available to the SCRS to support the scientific evaluation of the experimental use of traplines. As of 29 June 2026, the Secretariat has received two completed ST13 forms from CPCs.

The Secretariat would like to note that the elements relating to vessels authorised to use traplines (i.e. the reporting forms and the display format of the list on the ICCAT webpage) are currently a work in progress. They are therefore subject to change in line with any comments the Secretariat may receive from the SCRS or the Commission.