

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON IMPROVEMENT OF
COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
REGARDING BILLFISH CAUGHT IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

RECALLING that pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04¹) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish* (Rec. 16-11), CPCs are required to report through their Annual Reports on their implementation of the requirements of these measures;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Report of the Second Independent Performance Review recommended that the Commission prioritize the issue of poor reporting on the blue and white marlin stocks, and that the Compliance Committee at its 2017 meeting recommended that in order to improve compliance in the billfish fisheries, a reporting check sheet be developed for consideration for adoption at the 2018 Annual meeting;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the means to facilitate the review process of implementation of and compliance with billfish conservation and management measures, while reducing the reporting burden on CPCs;

DESIRING to streamline ICCAT reporting requirements, including by eliminating redundancies.

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

1. All CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, with their Annual Reports, details of their implementation of and compliance with billfish conservation and management measures using the check sheet in **Annex 1**, as may be revised by the ICCAT Secretariat in consultation with the COC and PA4 Chairs to reflect new billfish measures adopted by the Commission.
2. If there are no changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation of ICCAT billfish measures covered by the check sheet in **Annex 1** and no additional reporting fields have been included to reflect new billfish measures, the CPC shall not be required to submit a billfish check sheet, provided that it confirms in its Annual Report that there are no changes. If there are changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation, or additional reporting fields have been included in the billfish check sheet to reflect new billfish measures, the CPC shall only be required to submit such updates or responses to new reporting fields with their Annual Reports. However, CPCs shall submit updated billfish check sheets in full in the years when the Compliance Committee is scheduled to prioritize review of the billfish check sheets in accordance with paragraph 4.
3. CPCs may be exempt from the submission of the check sheet when vessels flying their flag are not likely to catch any billfish species covered by the Recommendations covered by the check sheet, on the condition that the concerned CPCs obtained a confirmation by the Billfish Species Group through necessary data submitted by CPCs for this purpose.
4. The Compliance Committee meeting shall prioritize review of CPC billfish check sheets at its 2020 Annual meeting. Future review will occur on an ICCAT meeting cycle as determined by the Committee, without prejudice to the competency of the Committee to consider billfish measure implementation issues at annual meetings during other years as appropriate.

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-05

Billfish Check Sheet

Name of CPC: _____

Note: Each ICCAT requirement must be implemented in a legally binding manner. Just requesting fishermen to implement measures should not be regarded as implementation.

Rec. #	Para #	Requirement	Status of implementation	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)	Notes/explanations
18-04	1	Landings limits – <i>Blue marlin landings limits</i> . Para. 1 establishes CPC-specific landing limits for certain CPCs and a generally applicable landing limit for all other CPCs. Were your CPC's total landings (from all fisheries, including commercial, recreational, sport, artisanal, subsistence) for blue marlin within the applicable limit in paragraph 1 or (or in the case of CPCs with a specific landings limit), within that CPC's adjusted landings limit on the relevant marlin compliance table?	Yes or No		If No, please indicate total landings and explain steps being taken to ensure landings do not exceed the ICCAT limit or adjusted limit applicable to the CPC (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	1	<i>White marlin/spearfish combined landings limits</i> . Para. 1 establishes CPC-specific landings limits for certain CPCs and a generally applicable landing limit for all other CPCs. Were your CPC's total landings (from all fisheries, including commercial, recreational, sport, artisanal, subsistence) for white marlin/spearfish (combined) within the applicable limit in paragraph 1 or (or in the case of CPCs with a specific landings limit, within that CPC's adjusted landings limit on the relevant marlin compliance table)?	Yes or No		If No, please indicate total landings and explain steps being taken to ensure landings do not exceed the ICCAT limit or adjusted limit applicable to the CPC (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	2	"To the extent possible, as the CPC approaches its landings limits, such CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are alive by the time of boarding are	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason. If "No", please explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.

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		released in a manner that maximizes their survival.”			(N/A is only a permissible response if your CPC did not approach its landings limit, which includes CPCs without a specific landings limit and therefore subject to the generally applicable limit in para. 1).
18-04	2	<p>“For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 1, on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained.”</p> <p>Does your CPC prohibit dead discard of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish?</p>	Yes or No		If “Yes”, please also explain your dead discard prohibition and rules concerning sale/entry into commerce here (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	4	<p>“CPCs shall work to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/spearfish”</p>	Yes or No		If “No”, please explain the reason. If Yes, please explain how. Include any information on best practices for handling bycatch of marlins if those have been adopted (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	5-7	<p>Does the CPC have recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish?</p>	Yes or No		(N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	5	<p>“CPCs with recreational fisheries shall maintain 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish tournament landings”</p> <p>Does your CPC meet the 5% requirement?</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If “No” or “N/A”, explain the reason.</p> <p>If “No”, please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>(“N/A” only a permissible response if your CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact</p>

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					with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).
18-04	6	<p>“CPCs with recreational fisheries shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes in their recreational fisheries that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm LJFL for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/spearfish, or comparable limits by weight.</p> <p>Has your CPC adopted minimum size requirements consistent with these?</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If “Yes”, please indicate what minimum size your CPC has set for each species, including if your CPC implements through a comparable weight limit.</p> <p>If “No” or “N/A”, explain the reason.</p> <p>If “No”, please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>(“N/A” is only a permissible response if your CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).</p>
18-04	7	<p>“CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish caught in recreational fisheries.”</p> <p>Has your CPC implemented this no sale provision?</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If “No” or “N/A”, please explain the reason.</p> <p>If “No”, please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>(“N/A” may only be used if the CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).</p>
18-04	8	<p>“CPCs shall inform the Commission of steps taken to implement the provisions of this Recommendation through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures.”</p> <p>Does your CPC provide this information to ICCAT?</p>	Yes or No		<p>If “Yes”, please provide here information on implementation (including monitoring, control, and surveillance measures) not otherwise covered elsewhere on this check sheet.</p>

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					If "No", please explain the reason, and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.
18-04	9	Does your CPC have non-industrial fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish?	Yes or No		"N/A" is not a permissible response.
18-04	9	"CPCs with non-industrial fisheries shall provide information about their data collection programs."	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		If "Yes", please briefly describe the data collection program. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason. If "No", please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement. ("N/A" may only be used if the CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any non-industrial fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).
18-04	10	"CPCs shall provide their estimates of live and dead discards, and all available data including observer data on landings and discards for blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, annually by July 31 as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process." Has your CPC provided this data by the deadline?	Yes or No		If "No", please explain the reason and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.
16-11	1	"Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels catch Atlantic sailfish (<i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) in the Convention Area shall ensure that management measures are in place to support the conservation of this species in line with ICCAT's Convention objective by undertaking the	Yes or No		If "Yes", please explain management measures taken or maintained to implement this requirement. If "No", explain the reason, and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.

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		following: (b) To prevent catches from exceeding this level for either stock of sailfish, CPCs shall take or maintain appropriate measures to limit sailfish mortality. Such measures could include, for example: releasing live sailfish, encouraging or requiring the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implementing a minimum size, and/or limiting days at sea.”			(“N/A” is not a permissible response).
16-11	2	“CPCs shall enhance their efforts to collect data on catches of sailfish, including live and dead discards, and report these data annually as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process.” Has your CPC enhanced its data collection efforts as required?	Yes or No		If yes, please explain actions taken. If “No”, please explain the reason (and any implementation steps your CPC plans to take). (“N/A” is not a permissible response).
16-11	3	CPCs shall describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation Has your CPC described its data collection programmes?	Yes or No		If “Yes”, please provide the information here, or if the information has been reported to ICCAT through means other than this check sheet, please indicate where. If “No” the reason, and any implementation steps the CPC plans to take. (“N/A” is not a permissible response).