

Original: English and Spanish

**SECRETARIAT'S REPORT TO THE
ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the Secretariat **before 16 October 2017**. Any information received after that deadline will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. This additional information will not be translated.

1. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

Previously, the *Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee Regarding Compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* covered all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions, but not all these are relevant to a review of CPC compliance. In 2016, the Chair of the Compliance Committee recommended that those not relevant to COC review be removed from the main body of the Secretariat Report and put into an annex for 2017 (see **Annex 6**, which was developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC Chair).

This report therefore contains only those measures for which review by the Compliance Committee is warranted. In some cases, measures may have expired, but were in force for the review period under consideration (2016).

1.1 Tropical Tuna

[15-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas: replaced by [16-01] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans:

Twenty three CPCs submitted development/management or fishing/management plans in accordance with paragraph 51 of Rec. 16-01: Barbados, Belize, Canada, China P.R., Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, European Union, France (St-Pierre et Miquelon), Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Korea Rep., Kingdom of Morocco, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (O.T.), United States, Venezuela, Bolivia (no fishery) and Chinese Taipei. All plans were received in the ICCAT format. These plans are contained in document **PA1-501/17**. By 16 October 2017, no plans had been received from the following CPCs with catch series for tropical tunas: Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Panama, São Tomé and Príncipe and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Quarterly reports: Some quarterly reports were received late, and in some cases, not at all. The 2016 quarterly catch reports are summarised in **Table 1**. The following CPCs reported Task I catches of bigeye tuna, but did not submit quarterly reports in 2016: Barbados, São Tomé and Príncipe and Trinidad and Tobago. Neither Task I nor quarterly reports were received from Brazil.

Japan is reporting 2016 quota year by Japanese fishing year. South Africa is reporting 2017 quota by South Africa fishing year.

Japan: 1st quarter (from August 2016 to October 2016): 1,887; 2nd quarter (from November 2016 to January 2017): 3,814; 3rd quarter: (from February 2017 to April 2017): 3,524.

Request for clarification/confirmation: Rec. 16-01 (as did Rec. 15-01) states that CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of bigeye caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat by the end of the following quarter. When 80% of the catch limit or threshold for a CPC is exceeded, the Secretariat shall notify that to all CPCs.

"Quarterly" is not defined, and Japan and South Africa report according to their respective fishing years. The Secretariat would like confirmation that CPCs are at liberty to define their own and that each three month period reported by each CPC may be a different three months

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (document COC-304/17). An overharvest of bigeye tuna has been reported by Ghana.

The ICCAT Task I data base shows bigeye (BET) catches by two CPCs for whom Compliance tables have never been received, as follows:

	Year					
Flag	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Equatorial Guinea		58		3	10	17
Rep. of Guinea	402	525	1804	1674	1111	

List of authorised Tropical vessels: Please see www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp and table below.

		Gear reported									
Status	Flag of vessel	GILL	BB	LL	Hooks and lines	MISC/unknown gears	N/A (not fishing vessels)	PS	SPOR	Trawl	Grand Total
CP	Belize			12				5			17
	Brazil		18	20							38
	Canada			1		1					2
	Cabo Verde					1					1
	China PR			41							41
	Curaçao						2	5			7
	Côte d'Ivoire			2							2
	EU.Spain	2	191	1	9		3	39			245
	EU.France	4		2	2		1	11		32	52
	EU.Ireland									3	3
	EU.Portugal		1	44	29						74
	El Salvador							4			4
	FR (SPM)		1								1
	Ghana		18		2			17			37
	Guatemala							2			2
	Japan			190							190
	Korea Rep.			12							12
	Mexico			26							26
	Namibia		8								8
	Panama			33			6	4			43
	Senegal		10	1	1		1	5			18
	South Africa		1	2		45					48
	St. Vincent and Grenadines			32		1					33
	Trinidad and Tobago			20							20
	U.S.A.			41	64				3		108
	Venezuela			8	1			7			16
NCC	Chinese Taipei			55							55
TOTAL		6	248	543	108	48	13	99	3	35	1103

The vessels reported as operating in the previous year are contained in **Annex 4**.

Annual report on implementation of the area/time closure: Ghana has reported that observer coverage for 2016 during the moratorium was carried out on 11 vessels (9 purse seiners plus 2 baitboats). No infractions were recorded during the period.

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD: Belize, Curaçao, Ghana, EU and Guatemala have submitted FAD management plans. These are contained in **Annex 5**.

Data and information collected from sampling programme: For the reporting period 2016, submissions were received from Canada, European Union (France and Portugal), China and Curaçao. Costa Rica reported that it currently has no port sampling programs, but this is scheduled for its implementation in the near future.

Observer Programme: Ghana and Curacao submitted observer reports from their national programmes, but these reports contain information which may be considered confidential and hence have not been distributed. No potential issues of non-compliance were detected from the reports submitted.

1.2 SWO - SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*)

[03-04] *Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish*

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[13-02] *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish: replaced by [16-03] Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish*

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/17. Task I figures are available for Guyana, but no swordfish was included in their Compliance tables.

N-SWO fishery management/development plans are contained in PA4-801/17. Plans were received in 2017 from the following CPCs: Belize (confirmed 2016 plan) Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union (France, Portugal and Spain); France St. Pierre and Miquelon, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal (confirmed 2016 plan), Trinidad and Tobago; UK-OT, United States (text only), Venezuela and Chinese Taipei. By 16 October 2017, no plans had been received from the following CPCs with catch series for northern swordfish: Barbados, Brazil and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Specific authorisation for N.SWO vessels: This Recommendation entered into force in June 2017, and compliance will be fully assessed in 2018. To date in 2017, thirteen CPCs have submitted their vessel authorisations for this species as shown in the table below (see also www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp).

Status	Flag of vessel	North Atlantic SWO
CP	Belize	3
	Canada	2
	China PR	41
	Côte d'Ivoire	2
	EU	70
	FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	1
	Japan	197
	Korea Rep.	6
	Morocco	824
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	33
	Trinidad and Tobago	17
	U.S.A.	118
NCC	Chinese Taipei	63
TOTAL		1,377

Belize and China submitted information on by-catch limitations (see Annual Reports for more details).

[15-03] *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish: replaced by [16-04] Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish*

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/17.

Specific authorisation for S-SWO vessels: This Recommendation entered into force in June 2017, and compliance will be fully assessed in 2018. To date in 2017, ten CPCs have submitted their vessel authorisations for this species as shown in the table below (see also www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp).

<i>Status</i>	<i>Flag of vessel</i>	<i>South Atlantic SWO</i>
CP	Belize	3
	Brazil	4
	China PR	41
	Côte d'Ivoire	2
	EU	18
	Japan	197
	Korea Rep.	6
	Namibia	19
	South Africa	2
NCC	Chinese Taipei	77
TOTAL		369

Belize and China submitted information on by-catch limitations.

[13-04] Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT: replaced by [16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish

Quarterly reports [Rec. 16-05]: All CPCs with quota share reported quarterly reports for the first two quarters of 2017. This requirement will be fully assessed in 2018.

Vessel lists: The lists of authorised Mediterranean swordfish vessels and Mediterranean albacore vessels are published on the ICCAT web site. To date, the CPCs shown in the table below have submitted their vessel authorisations for these species for 2017 (see also www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp).

Given the workload of the Secretariat, the restructuring of the data base could not be completed before the entry into force of the Recommendations. The Secretariat therefore set a later deadline for submission; this was not respected in all cases, but as no deadline is stipulated in the Recommendations, it is not clear whether this warrants consideration as late reporting. Cases have been flagged on document COC-308, subject to change if so determined by the Committee.

<i>Status</i>	<i>Flag of vessel</i>	<i>Mediterranean SWO</i>	<i>Mediterranean ALB</i>
CP	Algeria	442	0
	EU	7764	973
	Egypt	6	0
	Morocco	3355	0
	Tunisia	872	0
	Turkey	6911	106
TOTAL		19350	1079

The vessels reported as operating in the previous year are contained in **Annex 4**.

Closed seasons: The following closed seasons were reported. More information on the implementation of closed seasons can be found in **Appendix 1** to this document.

	2017			
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Algeria	15 February	15 March	1 October	30 November
Egypt	1 January	31 March		
EU	1 January	31 March		
Libya	1 January	31 March		
Morocco	15 February	15 March	1 October	30 November
Tunisia	15 February	15 March	1 October	30 November
Turkey	15 February	15 March	1 October	30 November

Port lists: There are currently 697 ports on the ICCAT Record authorised for landing for Mediterranean swordfish tuna. Please see: <http://iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>. This is a new requirement for 2017 and compliance with this measure will be fully reviewed in 2018.

Inspection agencies and ships: Information has been received from EU and Turkey. This is a new requirement for 2017 and compliance with this measure will be fully reviewed in 2018.

[04-12] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt measures concerning sport and recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea

No direct reporting obligations other than through Section 4 of Annual Report.

1.3 ALB - ALBACORE (*Thunnus alalunga*)

[98-08] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the limitation of fishing capacity on northern albacore [Rescinded by 16-06]

Lists of vessels are no longer required in accordance with Rec. 14-10. No other specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[99-05] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning possible management measures for northern albacore [Rescinded by 16-06]

This Recommendation reiterates the limitation on the number of vessels, but no reporting to the Secretariat is required over and above the normal statistical data (Task I/Task II) and/or through section 4 of Annual Reports.

[13-05] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program: replaced by [16-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore

Specific authorisation for N.ALB vessels (16-06): This Recommendation entered into force in June 2017, and compliance will be fully assessed in 2018. To date in 2017, nine CPCs have submitted their vessel authorisations for this species as shown in the table below (see also www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp).

Status	Flag of vessel	North Atlantic ALB
CP	Belize	7
	Canada	2
	China PR	5
	EU	154
	FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	1
	Japan	197
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	33
	U.S.A.	118
NCC	Chinese Taipei	63
TOTAL		580

Belize and China submitted information on by-catch limitations.

[13-06] *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the period 2014-2016: replaced by [16-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020*

Specific authorisation for S.ALB vessels (16-07): This Recommendation entered into force in June 2017, and compliance will be fully assessed in 2018. To date in 2017, eleven CPCs have submitted their vessel authorisations for this species as shown in the table below (see also www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp).

Belize and China submitted information on by-catch limitations.

Status	Flag of vessel	South Atlantic ALB
CP	Belize	5
	Brazil	3
	China PR	41
	Côte d'Ivoire	2
	EU	34
	Japan	197
	Korea Rep.	6
	Namibia	19
	South Africa	2
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	33
NCC	Chinese Taipei	77
TOTAL		419

1.4 BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

[06-07] *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming*

The ICCAT Record of farms, currently containing 61 farms, is published on the ICCAT web site. Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT web site do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT), and are presumably not active.

Farming reports have been received from EU; Morocco; Tunisia and Turkey (see **Table 2**).

[14-04] *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document **COC-304/17**.

Fishing Plans: Plans were received, in the required format, from all CPCs with quota for E-BFT and, following requests for clarification, were all endorsed.

Vessels lists: The lists of authorised bluefin tuna fishing and other vessels are published on the ICCAT web site (www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp). The first table below summarises the situation before the deactivation of the vessels whose authorisation period for 2017 has expired, while the following table shows the current situation.

<i>Status</i>	<i>Flag of vessel</i>	<i>E-BFT Catching</i>	<i>E-BFT Others</i>
CP	Albania	1	0
	Algeria	14	0
	China PR	2	0
	EU	8549	332
	Egypt	2	0
	Iceland	1	0
	Japan	33	3
	Korea Rep.	4	0
	Liberia	0	8
	Libya	14	7
	Morocco	2	7
	Norway	1	0
	Panama	0	13
	Syria	2	0
	Tunisia	23	33
	Turkey	22	33
NCO	Singapore	0	1
TOTAL		8670	437

<i>Status</i>	<i>Flag of vessel</i>	<i>E-BFT Catching</i>	<i>E-BFT Others</i>
	Albania		
	Algeria		
	China PR	2	
	EU	8265	244
	Egypt		
	Iceland	1	
	Japan	33	3
	Korea Rep.	4	
	Liberia		8
	Libya		7
	Morocco		
	Norway	1	
	Panama		12
	Syria		
	Tunisia		8
	Turkey		2
NCC	Singapore		1
TOTAL		8306	285

The vessels reported as operating in the previous year are contained in **Annex 4**.

Port lists: There are currently 548 ports on the ICCAT Record authorised for landing and/or transshipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Please see: <http://iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>.

Trap lists: There are currently 26 traps on the ICCAT Record authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Please see: www.iccat.int/en/Traps.asp

Joint fishing operations: In 2017, there have been 22 joint fishing operations (JFO). The Secretariat has received the necessary information ten days before the JFO. The information has been posted on the ICCAT webpage: <http://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.htm> and the same information has been registered in the eBCD system.

Catch Reporting (weekly / monthly): Monthly reports are published on the ICCAT web site (password protected) and reporting frequency is presented in **Table 4**. A summary of weekly reporting in 2017 can be found in **Table 3** and a comparison between weekly and monthly reporting up to 13 October 2017 in **Table 5**.

Fishery closure: in accordance with paragraph 69, CPCs have informed of their date of closure as follows:

CPC	Date fishery closure	CPC	Date fishery closure
Albania	24/06/2017	EU-Spain-PS	04/06/2017
Algeria	24/06/2017	EU-Spain-TP	14/06/2017
China	25/10/2017	Iceland	16/10/2017
Egypt	15/06/2017	Japan	19/11/2016
EU-PS	21/06/2017	Korea	12/10/2016
EU-Croatia-PS	21/06/2017	Libya	24/06/2017
EU-Cyprus	31/05/2017	Morocco	04/10/2017
EU-France-PS	05/06/2017	Norway	15/09/2017
EU-Greece		Syria	10/06/2017
EU-Italy-PS	10/06/2017	Tunisia	12/06/2017
EU-Italy-TP	24/07/2017	Turkey	21/06/2017
EU-Malta-PS	01/06/2017	Ch. Taipei	not applicable
EU-Portugal-TP	02/07/2017		

Note: 2016 closures have been included for longline fisheries, for which the 2017 season is still open at the time of writing.

VMS transmission: This year, at 13 October 2017, a total of 2,138.812 VMS messages have been received (for this overall calculation the messages that the system identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). This means that for the same period 208,158 more messages have been received or approximately 11% more messages from one year to the next. In this same period, 811 vessels have been active (as is the case for messages, active vessels are considered to be those which have sent at least one message with an out of port position), which are 132 vessels more than last year or approximately 19% more. For more details regarding messages transmitted, please see **Tables 6, 7 and 8**.

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names: Refer to **Table 9** for the list of BFT inspection reports submitted by the EU, Tunisia and Turkey. **Table 10** contains the list of agencies and the inspectors' names. All the reports are available as **Annex 3 (electronically only)**.

In March 2017, the EU informed the Secretariat that working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [75-02], the EU has in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP). This programme covers the period 16 March 2014 to 15 March 2018 to monitor and enforce the implementation of both the Bluefin tuna and the Swordfish recovery plans, involving the same control and inspection means. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery.

Observer programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Rec. 14-04, information from national observer programmes is included in regular scientific submissions. Some CPCs also submit national observer reports, but these may contain confidential information and are not distributed. For information on the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, please see documents **PA2-601/17** and **COC-305/17**.

Farming/caging: Table 2 shows a summary of the information received through farming reports. No first caging after 15 August 2017 has been reported.

Implementation reports: were received within the deadline from Albania, Algeria, China, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, European Union*, Iceland*, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Syria*, Tunisia and Turkey. These are contained in document **COC-302/17**.

*Were submitted slightly late, in accordance with Rec. 16-16, but before the previous deadline of 15 October.

[14-05] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program Replaced by [16-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC_304/17**.

In relation to paragraph 6.g of Rec. 14-05, and further to the information provided by Mexico concerning its transfer to Canada of 2016 W-BFT adjusted quota, Canada has informed the SCRS that the transfer from Mexico will be supporting the implementation and/or expansion of three key science projects aimed at providing additional knowledge on migration and mixing as well as further explore other means of fishery independent indexes. The three projects that will be supported by the transfer include measures to:

1. Provide technical and communication support for the conventional tagging program associated with the ICCAT GBYP tagging program. The Government of Canada has expanded its conventional tagging programme for 2017 which should allow Canada to continue to increase the number of spaghetti tags that are deployed successfully. All participants have been trained in the proper handling, tagging and reporting to maximize the success of this program and this will continue to be monitored throughout the season.
2. Allow for the deployment of up to an additional 17 satellite tags on BFT in new areas in the Gulf of St Lawrence and in waters off Newfoundland. Canada will attempt to tag fish in these areas where fish have not been typically reported until in recent years.
3. Permit further exploration of acoustic applications for monitoring distribution and measuring bluefin tuna with multi-beam sonar. Canada will also be investigating the potential to estimate short term post-release mortality.

[16-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC_304/17**. No additional reporting to the Secretariat is required.

1.5 BIL - BILLFISHES: Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) and Spearfish (*T. pfluegeri* and *T. belone*)

[15-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations Amended by [16-10] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation [15-05] by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC_304/17**.

[16-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

Task I reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2017, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their annual reports. Belize, Canada, Japan, Korea, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei submitted some information. Fifteen CPCs reported not applicable, four of these with no explanation. In some cases, non-applicability is not so clear, as CPCs may be reporting only on commercial/distant water fisheries, and not including artisanal /local fisheries. Sixteen CPCs did not respond to this requirement, either because they used an old annual report format or they just left the response blank: Cote d'Ivoire, Curacao, Egypt, EU, Gabon, Liberia, Libya, Namibia, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, UKOT, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Guyana.

1.6 BYC - BY-CATCH SPECIES

[04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15.

[07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

Please see Rec-11-09 below.

The information received is submitted under Rec. 11-09. A combination of these two measures may facilitate review.

[09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13. To simplify reporting, it is suggested that reporting requirements SHK 7003, 7004 and 7005 be removed from the annual reporting format, to be included in SHK 7006 (The check sheet required by Rec. 16-13)

[10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13. To simplify reporting, it is suggested that reporting requirements SHK 7003, 7004 and 7005 be removed from the annual reporting format, to be included in SHK 7006 (The check sheet required by Rec. 16-13)

[10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks caught in Association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13. To simplify reporting, it is suggested that reporting requirements SHK 7003, 7004 and 7005 be removed from the annual reporting format, to be included in SHK 7006 (The check sheet required by Rec. 16-13)

[10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13. To simplify reporting, it is suggested that reporting requirements SHK 7003, 7004 and 7005 be removed from the annual reporting format, to be included in SHK 7006 (The check sheet required by Rec. 16-13)

[10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries

The Sub-Committee on Ecosystems at their 2014 meeting decided to discontinue working on a sea turtle ERA in the short term, however, recognizing that there is a paucity of by-catch data submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, despite repeated requests for this information, the Sub-Committee requested that CPCs submit sea turtle by-catch information including data not reported using the ST09 data submission form, and also to estimate total removals using their observer data. All information submitted in 2017 is provided in **PLE-105/17**. The Secretariat received the majority of this information from submitted ST09-NatObPrg forms, although some CPCs submitted information separately using non-standard formats. It is recommended that this information is only submitted using the dedicated observer data collection forms as requested by the Secretariat. Possible reporting deficiencies (no information) have been detected for Brazil, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Vanuatu and Guyana. Angola, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Russia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turkey, Uruguay, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Suriname all indicated that these requirements were "not applicable", but this was not fully explained in all cases.

[11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13. To simplify reporting, it is suggested that reporting requirements SHK 7003, 7004 and 7005 be removed from the annual reporting format, to be included in SHK 7006 (The check sheet required by Rec. 16-13)

[11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in **PLE-105/17**. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs in 2017 are shown below:

	<i>EU.Malta</i>	<i>EU.Spain</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
Night setting	Night setting is generally not applied for most surface longline and bottom longline operations.	Implemented by Article 19 of Regulation AAA/658/2014, dated 22 April, regulating surface longline fisheries catching highly migratory species	Not practiced for ICCAT BFT fisheries as light well into the night and early morning in August/Sep	i) Both bird-scaring lines and ling weighting were applied to LLs operating in the area south of S 25 degrees; and ii) Bird-scaring lines were deployed by the LLs operating in the area between south of S 20 degrees and north of S 25degrees.	Longlines, gill nets and entangling nets to be set (anchored) at sea shall be marked with signal flag / float in day-time and with combination-buoy in night-time.
Tori line	Not applied.	Implemented	The BFT vessel	i) Both bird-	No Legal

		by Article 19 of Regulation AAA/658/2014, dated 22 April, regulating surface longline fisheries catching highly migratory species	employs bird scaring devises including floats to cover the line at setting, and if needed high frequency noise and flashing lights.	scaring lines and ling weighting were applied to LLs operating in the area south of S 25 degrees; and ii) Bird-scaring lines were deployed by the LLs operating in the area between south of S 20degrees and north of S 25degrees.	Obligation Exists, Implemented on Voluntary Basis
Line weighting	Line weighting utilised in bottom longlines but generally not in surface longlining		Floats over to cover line at setting	i) Both bird-scaring lines and ling weighting were applied to LLs operating in the area south of S 25 degrees; and ii) Bird-scaring lines were deployed by the LLs operating in the area between south of S 20degrees and north of S 25 degrees.	No Legal Obligation Exists, Implemented on Voluntary Basis

- Belize, Japan, South Africa and Chinese Taipei sent information on their NPOAs for seabirds specifically stating compliance with the ICCAT requirements (i.e. adopting at least 2 of the 3 mitigation measures).
- The following CPCs have responded not applicable to the requirements under para 7: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Canada, China PR, Curacao, El Salvador, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Costa Rica and Suriname.
- The EU submitted data on interactions, but only mitigation measures for EU-Malta and EU-Spain.
- France St Pierre and Miquelon: fishery remains sensitive to interactions and revises gear accordingly.
- Namibia reported they have an NPOA for seabirds – no further details available.
- Trinidad and Tobago specifically stated their difficulties in implementing an NPOA for seabirds and asked for assistance.
- Vanuatu provided their NPOA for seabirds in 2014.

Panel 4 may wish to consider consolidating with Rec. 07-07 in order to streamline compendium and facilitate compliance.

Request for clarification: Is the submission of information on the status of National Plans of Action on seabirds limited to those CPCs operating in the South Atlantic, or should this be submitted by all CPCs?

[11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries

Please see Rec. 16-14 and PLE-105 for information relating to this Recommendation

[13-11] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries

See [10-09] above

[14-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13.

[15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13.

[16-12] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

Information on implementation of this measure should be included in the reports submitted in accordance with Rec. 16-13.

[16-13] Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

This Recommendation requires all CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least one month before the start of the 2017 Annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures. By the deadline (14 October 2017), reports had been received from the following CPCs: Algeria, Belize, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, EU, France (SPM), Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, UKOT, USA, Vanuatu, Chinese Taipei and Suriname.

Algeria and Norway requested an exemption from this requirement. At the Data Preparatory meeting held in March 2017, the Shark Working Group discussed a list of criteria to review these exemption requests. As these criteria have not yet been adopted by either the SCRS or the Commission, the Group did not feel they had a clear method to review the exemption requests received. As such, the Group recommended that no exemptions be granted prior to the adoption of the evaluation criteria.

No check sheets were received from Albania, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Liberia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Guyana.

2. Monitoring and Compliance

2.1 GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

[96-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries

In accordance with Rec. 96-14, document **COC-304/17** presents 2016 CPCs landings for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, and swordfish in the North Atlantic. With the data provided in accordance with Rec. 11-11, no CPC has exceeded its catch limit for these species.

[97-01] Recommendation by ICCAT to improve compliance with minimum size regulations

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through **COC-304/2017**.

[97-08] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery

[97-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipments and vessel sightings

Turkey reported two sighting information sheets (forms CP18) concerning two vessels flagged to EU-Greece. According to Turkey, the vessels did not stop to allow inspectors of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection to conduct an inspection. Turkey submitted the forms as well as inspection reports and supporting videos. The Secretariat forwarded the information to the European Union. At the time of writing this report, the two vessels have been included in the draft IUU list (see also Rec. 11-18 below).

[98-11] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from non-Contracting Parties identified as having committed a serious infringement

The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[00-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits

CPCs have implemented Rec. 00-14, and through the form CP13 have reported their underages/overages for the species under quota/catch limit management. These are presented in document **COC-304/2017**.

[01-12] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in document **COC-304/17**.

[03-12] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

No direct reporting obligations other than through Section 4 of Annual Report.

[03-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

No direct reporting obligations other than through Section 4 of Annual Report.

[03-16] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt additional measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

No direct reporting obligations other than through Section 4 of Annual Report.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

Information submitted by CPCs (China, EU for Malta, Korea, Japan, Norway, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei) is contained in **Annex 1 (electronic only)**.

[06-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by Nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

No direct reporting obligations other than through Section 4 of Annual Report.

[07-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area

The Secretariat has detected room for improvement in the following areas:

- Occasional discrepancies regarding vessel information between data received via VMS and the information sent by CPCs for the Record of Vessels on the ICCAT website.
- Messages received and not correctly formatted in accordance with the NAF format established in Rec. 07-08. Once again this year, it should be noted that Panama has sent and continues to send VMS messages which are not correctly formatted, in particular, with incorrect values for some of the fields of the VMS messages. This problem has been reported on several occasions and has not been solved.
- In 2017, VMS messages have been processed manually by two CPCs:
 - Turkey: This year the case of this CPC has been somewhat particular as the migration of its entire VMS system has been carried out which has caused problems. Therefore, as well as occasional issues related to some of Turkey's vessels, messages have been transmitted in Excel format. The Secretariat has processed this information normally and has provided the necessary support to this CPC for the correct implementation of the new system.

Important aspects regarding the dates when the messages were sent by the CPCs:

- EU-Portugal has not reported any VMS messages during the bluefin tuna campaign [Rec. 14-04].

[08-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Process for the Review and reporting of Compliance Information

In accordance with Rec. 08-09, the European Union transmitted to the Secretariat information concerning allegation of illegal activities by Tunisian vessels involved in a joint fishing operation and not included in the ICCAT Register of vessels in 2017. The allegations were submitted by the Secretariat to Tunisia who replied to the European Union. The European Union later submitted additional information which was also transmitted to Tunisia. These documents are contained in document **COC-307/17**.

[10-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs: replaced by Rec. [16-14]

See Rec. 16-14 below.

[11-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex

Please refer to document **COC-304/17**. As reported in document **COC-308/17**, 34 CPCs submitted the Compliance tables within the deadline of Rec.16-16 (15 August), as requested by the Commission in 2016, further to several reminders sent by the Secretariat, 6 CPC submitted them late, and 16 did not submit them.

[11-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations

Following the 2016 Commission meeting, the Secretariat contacted those Contracting Parties whose Task I data had been deemed to be incomplete by the Compliance Committee, a deficiency which could lead to a retention prohibition. Additional information was received from several parties, but the following CPCs received letters prohibiting catches of certain species: Barbados; Ghana; Korea; Mauritania; Nicaragua; Senegal; Sierra Leone and Vanuatu. Replies with the missing data and/or confirmation of zero catch as applicable were received from Barbados, Ghana, Korea, Mauritania, Nicaragua and Senegal, and the prohibition has been lifted for these six Contracting Parties.

Mauritania has been prohibited from catching all species of tuna, tuna-like species and associated shark species managed by ICCAT since 2015. Despite this, in 2016, Mauritania operated two longliners and caught several ICCAT managed species (yellowfin, billfish, blue shark, shortfin mako, silky shark, bigeye thresher shark). These longliners were reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record, but were not included as no IMO numbers (or justification of absence) were provided, despite follow up request from the Secretariat. Task 1 information was reported to the Secretariat using ST02 form, but the form was incorrectly completed and could not be processed; the Secretariat is currently working with Mauritania to assist them in correctly completing the statistical forms.

Reminders were sent in September 2017 to those which had not provided sufficient information to lift prohibition: Sierra Leone and Vanuatu. Task 1 data or confirmation of the zero catches for the required years/species is still pending for these Parties.

The following CPCs have confirmed zero catches of all ICCAT managed species in 2016: France (St. Pierre et Miquelon); Guinea Equatorial; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Philippines; Uruguay; Vanuatu, as well as UK.British Virgin Islands; UK.Turks and Caicos; and Bolivia, Costa Rica and Suriname.

Appendix 4 shows the missing Task I data at the time of writing. CPCs are requested to review this and submit any missing Task 1 or to confirm that blanks should be zero catches as soon as possible. The Compliance Committee Chair will provide more guidance on deadlines for this during the meeting.

Requests for clarification:

Recommendation 11-15 and associated guidelines in 15-09 are silent on actions to be taken by CPCs, the Commission, or the Secretariat in the case of CPCs fishing in contravention of a prohibition on retention in place under 11-15. Guidance is sought as to whether any intersessional action is required of the Secretariat in such cases.

Recommendation 11-15 and 15-09 guidelines indicate that Secretariat should lift prohibition when data are complete. The Secretariat has understood that notification to the CPC concerned is sufficient, and the circulation of this information is not required by the Recommendation. Confirmation or otherwise would be appreciated.

[11-18] Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area

In accordance with Rec. 11-18, Tukey submitted information to the Secretariat concerning presumed IUU activities of the vessels flagged to EU-Greece, *Kapetan Manolis P.S* (ATEU0GRC00271) and *Kap. Nikolas* (ATEUGRC00299), in contravention of paragraphs 9 and 13 of Annex 1 of Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish [Rec. 16-05]. This information was transmitted to the European Union and the Secretariat added both vessels in the draft IUU list awaiting for further instruction by the European Union and Turkey in order to leave or lift the vessels from the provisional IUU list.

The Provisional IUU list is contained in document **PWG-405/17**.

[12-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment: replaced by [16-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment

Rec. 16-15, paragraph 22 requires the flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transshipments to submit an annual report before 15 September

Belize, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Korea, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chinese Taipei currently participate in the ROP-transshipment. At the time of writing, reports had been received from all except St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The submissions by Belize and Côte d'Ivoire included the lists of transshipment and vessels, but no comprehensive reports assessing the content and conclusions of the observer reports. It should be noted that the quantities transhipped by both these parties is small, and no potential non-compliance (PNC) issues were raised for Belize for 2016/17. One PNC was issued for St. Vincent and the Grenadines; the response is contained in **COC-305/17**.

The quantities of tuna and tuna like catches by species, as well as the lists of vessels, are contained in **Annex 1** of document **PWG-402/17**, and the comprehensive reports as **Appendix 2 to PWG-402**

Reports on in-port transshipment were received from Belize, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, El Salvador, Ghana, Korea, Liberia, Japan and Chinese Taipei.

EU-Malta reported on transshipment activities of Panamanian flagged vessels within its ports, but no report was received by Panama.

Additional information can be found in the Secretariat reports contained in documents **PWG-402/17** and **COC-305/17**.

[12-07] Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port

According to this Recommendation, the port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. Inspection reports were received in 2017 from Cabo Verde, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Tunisia and South Africa (also from 2016) mostly with no infringements, although not always within the 14 day deadline. These have been maintained on file at the Secretariat, as the Recommendation is silent as to the actions the Secretariat should take following receipt of these reports, except in cases where an infringement has been found.

In the 110 reports received for inspections carried out in 2017 at the time of writing, no infringements of ICCAT measures have been reported.

The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the ICCAT web site at www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp. The table below shows which CPCs have submitted lists of ports, and which have not:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported</i>	<i>Observations</i>	<i>CPC</i>	<i>List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported</i>	<i>Observations</i>
Albania	YES		Mexico	NO	n/a, no explanation
Algeria	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed	Morocco	YES	
Angola	NO	n/a, no explanation	Namibia	YES	
Barbados	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed	Nicaragua	NO	no report
Belize	NO	n/a, no access granted to foreign vessels	Nigeria	NO	no report
Brazil	NO	no report	Norway	YES	
Canada	YES		Panama	YES	
Cabo Verde	YES		Philippines	NO	no report
China PR	NO	n/a, not a coastal State	Russia	NO	n/a, there is no specialised fishery
Côte d'Ivoire	YES		São Tomé and Príncipe	NO	
Curaçao	NO	n/a, no designated ports	Senegal	YES	
Egypt	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed	Sierra Leone	NO	no report
El Salvador	NO	Has encountered difficulties in implementation	South Africa	YES	
European Union	YES		St Vincent & Grenadines	NO	Have not yet been established
France SPM	YES		Syria	NO	n/a, due to circumstances in Syria
Gabon	NO	no information	Trinidad & Tobago	NO	Has encountered difficulties in implementation
Ghana	YES		Tunisia	YES	
Guatemala	NO	n/a, has not yet designated any ports	Turkey	NO	n/a, no access granted to foreign vessels
Guinea Ecuatorial	NO	no report	UK-OT	NO	Has encountered difficulties in implementation for TCI
Guinea Bissau	NO	no report	United States	YES	
Guinea Rep	NO	no report	Uruguay	YES	
Honduras	NO	no report	Vanuatu	NO	n/a, not a coastal State

Iceland	YES		Venezuela	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed
Japan	NO	n/a, does not designate ports for this purpose	Bolivia	NO	no information
Korea	YES		Chinese Taipei	YES	
Liberia	NO	n/a, no vessel requested entry	Costa Rica	NO	n/a, has not authorised any Atlantic ports
Libya	YES		Guyana	NO	no report
Mauritania	NO	no information	Suriname	YES	

Request for clarification: Some CPCs have indicated that submitting the list of ports is not applicable to them, as their ports are not within the ICCAT Convention area. Clarification on this point is required in order to be able to correctly flag potential reporting deficiencies.

[13-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention area

Updated Internal Actions reports (CP10) were received from Albania, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, Libya, Mexico and Syria. These are contained in **Annex 2 (available electronically only)**.

The vessel list is published on www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp. There was one unresolved case of retroactive reporting (Namibia) during the year, and this has been noted on **COC-308/17**.

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering

Table 11 shows a summary of the information submitted to ICCAT by CPCs. The summary reports submitted in 2017 by Namibia and South Africa is contained in **Appendix 2** to this document.

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements

A summary of the information received is contained in **Table 12**. Information included in Annual Reports can be found in document **COC-301/17**.

[14-09] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum Standards for the establishment of a vessel fishing monitoring system in the ICCAT Convention area

The SCRS reiterated the utility of VMS data for assessing fishing activity in the Atlantic Ocean. It was noted that the ICCAT FAD Working Group had also stressed the need to access VMS data in order to better characterize fishing effort of purse seiners and therefore improve the corresponding CPUE indices. The Sub-committee on Statistics noted that scientists should have access to this data to improve their analyses. While acknowledging that the higher the frequency of reporting the more useful is the VMS data, the SCRS still has to complete a full analysis of the optimum frequency of VMS transmission for different ICCAT fisheries. It was concluded, nevertheless, that the 4-hour frequency of transmission in Rec. [14-09] is insufficient to detect fishing activity for many gear types.

[14-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize and Guide the Implementation of ICCAT Vessel Listing Requirements:

Please see Rec.13-13 above.

[16-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program

Possible reporting deficiencies have been identified for: Brazil, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria, Vanuatu and Guyana. Albania, Angola, Barbados, China, France (SPM), Japan, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (OT), Uruguay, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Suriname have all reported not applicable, but the reason for this is not explained in all cases. Originally, the form CP45 was developed by the Secretariat to collect the information required in relation to implementation. The Secretariat will work with the SCRS to update and improve this form during 2018 in order to make reporting easier for CPCs in the future.

The SCRS noted that some of the information required by Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12 d), already exists and needs to be compiled. There was a general agreement that a complete response to this recommendation will require coordination among several SCRS Working Groups. It was also agreed that the SCRS Chair, the Chair of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems, and other SCRS Chairs will draft a response to the Commission to be reviewed during the 2018 SCRS Plenary meeting.

2.2 SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

[No measures currently active]

2.3 SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS

[01-21] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program

More information can be found in documents **PWG-401/17** and **PLE-105/17**. See also Rec. 01-22 below

[01-22] Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program

More information can be found in documents **PWG-401/17** and **PLE-105/17**.

For both Recommendations, the Secretariat requested, and received, information from Guyana on its validating authorities (BET & SWO).

To date, no validation information has yet been received from Tanzania, although Japan continues to import swordfish from Tanzania. Other CPCs have had some imports from Tanzania, namely Chinese Taipei (BET & SWO) and the US (SWO). The Secretariat has again requested this information from Tanzania. Papua New Guinea has had some BET exports to EU-Spain, but no validation information has yet been received; the Secretariat has requested this information from Papua New Guinea.

Some new importing countries have been detected, namely Burkina Faso (BET), Israel (BET), United Arab Emirates (SWO), Saudi Arabia (SWO), EU-Belgium (SWO), EU-Germany (SWO), and EU-Sweden (SWO). The Secretariat will be contacting the four which are non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities in accordance with paragraphs 11 of Recs. 01-21 and 01-22 to request their cooperation and send data reports from statistical document data.

[10-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)

For eBCD implementation, please see Rec. 15-10 below and **PWG-401/17**.

[11-20] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program

Annual reports have been submitted by Algeria, Canada, Chinese Taipei; EU (most MS), France SPM; Japan, Iceland; Korea, Libya, Mexico, Norway; Tunisia, Turkey and are posted on the password protected area of the ICCAT web site: www.iccat.int/en/BCD.asp No report were received from EU-France and EU-Italy.

Please see documents **PWG-401/17** and **PWG-403/17** for information on the implementation of Rec. 11-20 under the eBCD system and associated requests.

[15-10] Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System

In accordance with the Recommendation, the use of the eBCD system became mandatory for CPCs on 1 May 2016 with the following provisions:

- CPCs involved in the catch and trade of bluefin tuna not destined for farms could use paper BCD document until 30 June 2016.
- CPCs' traps and farms involved in the live fish trade could continue using paper BCD document, in accordance with Rec. 11-20, up to 26 May 2016 (i.e., the start of the 2016 E-BFT purse seine fishing season in the Mediterranean).

Outside the Secretariat's office hours and the technical assistance' hours contracted with the consortium, any CPC can self-register an incident on the ICCAT web page: www.iccat.int/en/eBCDprog.asp to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. So far, eleven incidents have been reported (Canada: 2; China: 1, Egypt: 1; European Union: 4; Japan: 1; Morocco: 1, USA: 1).

2.4 MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

[03-20] Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non- Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname currently enjoy cooperating status. Bolivia and Costa Rica have specifically requested renewal of cooperating status (refer to document **COC-310/17**), although this is not a requirement for renewal. Review of compliance by cooperating parties, entities and fishing entities is included in **COC-308/17**.

[05-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations

The aim of this Recommendation was to pinpoint missing data which affects work of SCRS, but work on Rec. 11-15 has been highlighting any blanks whether relevant or not. It could be beneficial to combine these approaches. The Secretariat recalls that the SCRS has already in place various tools (the report cards in **Tables 1 to 5 of PLE-105**, the species/stocks catalogues in **Appendix 1 of PLE-105**, and the new scoreboard on data availability in page 1 of **Appendix 1 of PLE-105**) aiming to evaluate data deficiencies/gaps (part of the objectives of these two recommendations).

[03-04] Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish

Information should be included in Section 4 of Annual Report.

2.5 OTHER

[12-14] Revised guidelines for the preparation of Annual Reports

At the time of writing, no annual report had been received from any of the following: Brazil, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines or Sierra Leone. Nicaragua, Nigeria and Philippines confirmed no fishing activity in 2016.

The Secretariat encountered difficulties in compiling the information, as many CPCs (at least 12) used Section 3 reporting tables from 2016 or earlier, despite the Secretariat updating and circulating the new table. CPCs need to ensure that the version they are using is the latest one. In addition, clearer guidance is required on reporting. The Secretariat understands that in general, information relating to 2016 should be reported in 2017, but the dates these were reported to the Secretariat in the reporting summary sheets should pertain to the current year (e.g, Task 1 data for 2016 reported 31/07/2017).

Exceptions to this have been eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, due to the delicate nature of the stock and the strict management measures in place. The Committee may wish to give some thought to the reporting periods and requirements, which will be most important if online reporting is to be considered.

In some cases, it appears that CPCs are limiting their reports to high seas fisheries or large-scale commercial fisheries, and are not including information from small scale/artisanal/inshore fisheries. It should be noted that information relating to any type of fishery on any ICCAT species (tuna, tuna-like species and associated shark species, associated turtle/seabird bycatch) should be included in annual reports, including sport and recreational fishery. The ICCAT Convention area covers both high seas and EEZs.

Some CPCs continue to submit late reports, particularly Part I (required first day of species group meetings). Four CPCs sent the reports within the previous deadline of 16 October, but missed the 1 October deadline: Angola, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria and Venezuela.

Other reports received were incomplete/ missing part II: Barbados, Guyana and Mauritania.

Albania, Côte d'Ivoire; Curaçao; Egypt ; EU ; Liberia; Libya; Namibia; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Tunisia; Vanuatu, Bolivia and Costa Rica originally submitted annual reports with previous year's/incomplete Section III. Addendums or confirmation of not applicable were received from Albania.

In document **COC-311/17**, the Secretariat has prepared a summary of section 5 of Part II of the annual report ("Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures") presenting the main difficulties of some CPCs and raising the possible need for technical assistance.

[16-24] Guidelines for preparing the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan

All plans were received in the adopted format in 2017.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. 2016 Quarterly bigeye catches

Table 2. Summary of caging reports

Table 3. Weekly reports of E-BFT catch received to 15 October 2017

Table 4. Summary of monthly catch reports received (as of 13 October 2017)

Table 5. Comparison of BFT weekly and monthly catches

Table 6. VMS messages received by CPC and by number of vessels (16/10/2016-13/10/2017, both dates included, no Port positions included)

Table 7. Vessels that have been registered in the ICCAT List of Vessels during May-July 2017 and which have not issued any messages during that period.

Table 8. Vessels that have NOT been registered in the ICCAT List of Vessels during May-July 2017 (or whose authorisation has expired) and which have issued messages during this period.

Table 9. Inspection reports received in 2017

Table 10. Names of authorized government agencies and individual inspectors submitted in 2017

Table 11. Information on chartering in 2016-2017

Table 12. Summary of Access agreements