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**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A  
MULTI-ANNUAL [MANAGEMENT/RECOVERY] PLAN FOR  
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

*(Submitted by the European Union)*

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2017 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) could be set at 36,000 t to be reached in 2020 in a gradual stepwise way without undermining the success of the rebuilding plan;

[...]

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the advice from SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures introduced under the Recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 13-07);

*STRESSING* the need in light of this to rationalize some of the provisions existing under the recovery plan;

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

*CONSIDERING* that in the context of reasonable concerns linked to the assessment uncertainties and the subsequent reduction of the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase exponentially in the coming years and the controls remain effective;

*NOTING* that on the basis of the latest stock assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise (MSE) and after the harvest control rules (HCR) have been defined by the SCRS, the Commission may decide in 2020 on advisable changes to the management framework for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna;

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

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

**Part I  
General Provisions**

**Objective**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a [management/recovery] plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2018 with the goal of maintaining the biomass around  $B_{0.1}$  (achieved by fishing at  $F_{0.1}$ ). Although SCRS considers  $F_{0.1}$  to be a reasonable proxy for  $F_{MSY}$ , the management aim for the stock should be to maintain the biomass around  $B_{MSY}$ . [Based on the objectives of this plan, CPCs commit to transitioning from a recovery plan to a management plan by 2019]
2. When the SCRS stock evaluation indicates that the status and development of the stock (in terms of biomass and/or fishing mortality) is diverting from this objective, safeguards and review clauses as defined in the final provisions of this plan shall apply.

## Definitions

### 3. For purposes of this Plan:

[...]

- a) "fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) "catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) "processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) "auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
- e) "towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages.
- f) "support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 3a).
- g) "fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- h) "joint fishing operation" (hereinafter referred in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key.
- i) "transfer operations" means:
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
  - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
- j) "control transfer" means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- k) "trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- l) "caging" means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- m) "farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- n) "farm" means a marine area clearly defined by geographical coordinates, on which aquaculture installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners are placed. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (four points with a clear definition of longitude and latitude).
- o) "harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.

- p) "transhipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. Unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seiner net, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary or a processing vessel shall not be considered as transhipment.
- q) "sport fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- r) "recreational fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- s) "stereoscopic camera" means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images.
- t) "control camera" means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- u) "BCD or electronic BCD" means a bluefin catch document for bluefin tuna. As appropriate, the reference to BCD shall be replaced by eBCD.
- v) "Task II" means Task II as defined by ICCAT in the 'Field manual for statistics and sampling Atlantic tunas and tuna-like fish' (third edition, ICCAT, 1990).
- [...]
- w) "Lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as overall lengths.
- x) "Mixed team" means a team of fisheries inspectors from different CPCs flag State authorities.

## Part II

### Management measures

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

4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred in paragraph 49 a) of this Recommendation.
5. [T]he total allowable catches (TACs) for the years 2018-2020 shall be set at: xx,xxx t for 2018; yy,yyy t for 2019 and zz,zzz t for 2020, in accordance with the following allocation scheme:


[...]

6. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
7. Carry-over of any under-harvested quota is not authorized. The Commission may allow, at the request of a CPC, a carry-over of 5% when duly justified and when the status of the stock has recovered.
8. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
9. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.

[...]

[...]

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

10. By 15 February each year, each CPC with allocated bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:
  - a) an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
  - b) an annual fishing capacity plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota.
  - c) a monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
11. Prior to 31 March and in line with paragraph 118 of this recommendation the Commission shall convene an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2 to endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10. In case of non-submission of the plans by a CPC or if the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC.

#### **Annual fishing plans**

12. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.

A certain degree of flexibility shall be authorized for coastal vessels providing they are subject to 100% of electronic monitoring and subject to scientific monitoring and reporting to SCRS.

13. Each CPC shall allocate, when appropriate, a specific quota for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries. That allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries, to account for possible dead fish.
14. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.

#### **Capacity management measures**

##### **Fishing capacity**

15. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.

16. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 15 to 27, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping when capacity reduction is required.
17. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels with the exception of artisanal vessels.
18. Paragraph 17 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in Annex 1 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
19. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number of traps authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
20. The adjustments defined in paragraph 15 to 19 may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
21. Without prejudice to paragraph 20, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 17 to 19 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its potential fishing capacity and the fishing capacity that would be commensurate with its allocated quota in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual meeting, with the exception of artisanal vessels with length overall equal or inferior to 12m, for which the minimum quota requirement of 5t shall no longer be applicable. This methodology shall be revised prior to the 2019 Annual meeting on the basis of the information provided by the SCRS.
22. To calculate its fishing capacity adjustment, each CPC shall take into account, inter alia, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear estimated by SCRS.
23. The SCRS shall update the Commission every second year and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated catch rates.
24. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.
- [...]
25. CPCs shall commit not to increase more than 20% of fishing capacity for purse-seiners for the period 2018 to 2020.
26. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 17 and 19, for 2018, 2019 and 2020 CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans, referred to in paragraph 12, a higher number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such increase shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 22.
27. By way of derogation; the reference period used to calculate the base line for capacity does not apply to CPCs who prohibited bluefin tuna fisheries in the years when capacity reduction measures were adopted.

[...]  
[...]  
[...]  
[...]  
[...]  
[...]

### **Farming capacity**

28. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 29 and 30. Modifications of the farming management plan shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 May each year.
29. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT on 1 July 2008.
30. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008 and allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
31. The plans referred to in paragraphs 12 to 14 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this recommendation.

### **Part III Technical measures**

#### **Open fishing seasons**

32. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July, with the exceptions of a) the Norwegian Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October and b) the Adriatic Sea where such fishing shall be permitted from 26 May until 15 July.
33. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraph 32 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

#### **Minimum size**

34. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.
35. By derogation from paragraph 34, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations.
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats.
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean sea by the coastal artisanal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, and for the fleets referred to in this paragraph, each CPC may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum length of 6.4 Kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% of the quantities caught.

[...]

36. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorisations to vessels fishing under the derogation referred to in paragraph 35.

#### **Incidental catches of fish below minimum size and general rules on by-catches**

37. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized.

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

#### General rules on by-catches

38. CPCs may grant tolerance to vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna, with the condition that these incidental catches shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board by weight or number of pieces. The levels of authorized by-catches shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 10 of this recommendation. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT as provided in the 2014 SCRS Report.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed, whole and unprocessed, where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 79 to 85 and 109 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.

#### Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

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

40. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for sport fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.

41. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
42. Each CPC shall record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 1 July each year.
43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
44. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.
45. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the north east Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation, b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year.

46. CPCs shall be make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
47. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 46 shall include the following information:
- a) Name of vessel, register number
  - b) ICCAT Record Number (if any)
  - c) Previous name (if any)
  - d) Vessel length
  - e) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

**Use of aerial means**

48. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

**Part IV: Control measures**

**Section A - Records of vessels and traps**

**ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna**

49. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. That record should consist of two lists:
- a) all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
  - b) all other fishing vessels, other than catching vessels, authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel may be registered in any of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b) as long as such registration is not in both lists at the same time. Without prejudice to paragraph 38, for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna.

50. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the quota period the list of its catching vessels, authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 49.a). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
51. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:
- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included in the records referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on the list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included in the records referred to in paragraph 49 and for which an ICCAT number has been provided by the Secretariat.



- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases not sufficiently justified or incomplete to the Compliance Committee as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original request for change of fishing vessels listed in the records.

- 52. Conditions and procedures referred to in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 13-13] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- 53. Without prejudice to paragraph 38 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 49 a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

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

- 54. CPCs shall issue special authorisations to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 46, 49 and 56. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 12**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorisation is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall withdraw the fishing authorisation for bluefin tuna and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

#### **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

- 55. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
- 56. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 12 to 14, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 55.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Information on fishing activities**

- 57. By 31 July each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:
  - a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
  - b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
  - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
  - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
  - e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

58. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 57 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag CPC for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

#### Joint fishing operations

59. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorised, each purse-seiner shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in the following paragraphs. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse-seiner vessels participating in the concerned JFO; Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse-seiners, as referred to under paragraph 32 of this Recommendation. No JFOs between purse-seiners from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize JFO with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO
60. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:
- the period of authorization of the JFO,
  - the identity of the operators involved,
  - the individual vessels' quotas,
  - the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
  - information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the purse-seiners fishing season as defined in paragraph 32.

In the case of *force majeure* the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide ICCAT Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*.

61. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
62. No JFOs between purse-seiners from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

**Part IV: Control measures**

**Section B - Catches and transhipments**

**Recording requirements**

63. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of **Annex 2**.
64. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of **Annex 2**.

**Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators**

65. Masters of catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send to the authorities of the flag CPC weekly information from logbooks, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. They shall send that information electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** during the whole period in which the vessel is authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
66. Masters of purse seiners shall produce daily reports as referred to in paragraphs 63 to 65 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero.
67. The reports referred to in paragraphs 65 and 66 shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities on a daily basis for purse seiners by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day and for other catching vessels by Monday 24.00 (midnight) for the preceding week ending Sunday 24.00 (midnight) GMT.
68. Trap operators or their authorised representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in Annex 2 to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna"

**Designated ports**

69. The flag CPC shall ensure that masters of catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as well as the masters of the processing vessels and the auxiliary vessels shall ensure that they only land and/or tranship their catches in designated ports of CPCs.
70. Each CPC shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC as defined in paragraph 10. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat.
71. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port state shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
  - a) established landing and transhipment times;
  - b) established landing and transhipment places; and
  - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transhipping times and at all landing and transshipping places.
72. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from fishing vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 69 to 71.
73. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 70 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

#### Prior notification of landings and transshipments

74. Prior to entry into any port, masters of fishing vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival;
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- c) estimate of quantity of dead or dying bluefin tuna discarded;
- d) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 10e of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

For catching vessels with a length overall (LOA) equal to or greater than 15 m, after each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

For catching vessels with a length overall (LOA) inferior to 15 m not equipped with and electronic logbook, weekly landing declarations shall be provided and transmitted to the competent authorities of the flag CPC.

#### Reporting of catches from CPCs to ICCAT Secretariat

[...]

- 75. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made. When 90% of the allocated quota has been consumed for one CPC, that CPC shall increase the frequency of transmission to weekly transmission of catches.
- 76. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs.
- 77. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

#### Cross check

- 78. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and possibly e-BCDs, the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

### Transshipment

79. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
80. Fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. Conditions for designated ports are defined in paragraph 69 to 73 of this Recommendation.
81. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in Annex 3.
82. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
83. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 h after the date of transshipment in port. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the e-BCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
84. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
85. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

## Part IV: Control measures

### Section C - Observer programmes

#### CPC Observer Programme

86. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:
  - 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
  - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
  - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
  - 100% of towing vessels,
  - 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessels and traps compliance with the present Recommendation,

- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
  - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
  - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
  - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
  - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2019 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

#### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

87. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms and
- during the release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel/tug boat/trap or farm for which their services are required, to the extent possible, ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that Regional observers deployed shall have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag CPC of the vessel or farm or traps.

One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations.

88. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected;
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

#### Part IV: Control measures

##### Section D - Live fish

##### Transfer operations

89. Before any transfer operation, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag CPC or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
- estimated time of transfer,
- estimated quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. If several transport cages need to be used when transferring a catch from one fishing operation, only one transfer declaration is required.

[...]

[...]

Cages numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

90. The flag CPC shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap. Information regarding dead or dying fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 4**.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, or had not been authorized to be caged and therefore not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish has not a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this recommendation, or
- d) the towing vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49.b) or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and fully functioning Automatic Identification System (AIS),

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall immediately issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the master of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in **Annex 10**.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be performed in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

In the event of a technical failure of its VMS during the transport to the farm, the towing vessel shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS as soon as feasible.

- 91. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
  - a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20\*\*/xxx/ITD).
  - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
  - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 92. The authorization for transfer by the flag CPC does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.
- 93. For transfers of live bluefin tuna the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.



94. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 87 and 88, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 89 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 90.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated, [where possible]. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the enforcement authorities of the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall conduct a control transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer. New transfers shall be conducted until the quality of the video record could allow estimating the quantities transferred.

95. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations, including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraph 94. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

### Caging operations

96. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical mile of farming facilities, shall be prohibited. To this end, geographical coordinates corresponding to the polygon where the farm is placed need to be available in the farming management plans transmitted to ICCAT under paragraph 28 of this recommendation.
97. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 91 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours/1 working day of the request, of the catching vessel's or trap flag CPC, or of the CPC authorities of the farm if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours/1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

Fish shall be caged before the 22 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including force majeure, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted. In any case the fish could not be caged after 7<sup>th</sup> September. As a way of derogation for the general rule, this period could be expanded until 15 September for the caging of fish in the Adriatic Sea.

98. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.
99. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by their enforcement authorities by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 8**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the flag CPC of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal, including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 100 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy.

100. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods that guarantee the same level of precisions and accuracy shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program using stereoscopic cameras shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**. In case of the use of alternative methods, those methods should be duly analysed by the SCRS, who should present its conclusions regarding their precision and accuracy for endorsement by the Commission during the Annual meeting before an alternative methodology could be considered as valid for the purpose of monitoring the caging operations.

The results of this programme shall be communicated to the catching CPC, and by the flag CPC of the farm CPC, to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and/or transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all caging operations from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 91 and **Annex 10** and in the presence of enforcement authorities.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the presence of a national enforcement authority and an ICCAT observer to monitor the release.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with **Annex 9**.

101. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm State control authorities. Each transfer shall be recorded to control the number of specimens. National enforcement authorities shall monitor those transfers.
102. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera at the moment of caging shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned and should therefore be duly investigated.
103. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.
104. On the basis of a risk analysis, mandatory random controls shall be undertaken by the flag CPC farm control authorities on bluefin tuna in farm cages between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Each CPC shall fix a minimum percentage of fish to be controlled which shall be reflected in its control plan referred to under paragraph 10c of this Recommendation.

#### Access to and requirements for video records

105. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraph 99 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers at request.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

### Part IV: Control measures

#### Section E - Tracking of fishing activities

##### VMS

106. CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m, in accordance with the Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 14-09]. Each CPC can take any measure stricter than the ICCAT recommendation on vessels subjected to mandatory VMS.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 110 to 114 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation, unless the vessel is removed of the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS by bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

#### **Part IV: Control measures**

##### **Section F - Enforcement**

##### **Enforcement**

107. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this recommendation.

The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law in such way to make sure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

108. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 89 to 106.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law, suspension or withdrawal of the record of bluefin tuna farms, together with fines.

#### **Part IV: Control measures**

##### **Section G - Market measures**

##### **Market measures**

109. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20] and Recommendation [15-10] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels or traps whose flag CPC either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag CPC fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 12 are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports from farms that do not comply with this recommendation.

**Part V**

**ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

110. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
111. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 110 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].
112. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the [Mediterranean Sea/Convention area], the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.
113. Mixed teams of ICCAT inspectors from CPCs may be deployed to participate in inspections at sea and/or verifications on farming installations when both CPCs involved in fishing operation do agree so.
114. In the cases when enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag CPC inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail on their territory, their jurisdictional waters and/or on board of their inspection platform.

**Part VI**

**Final provisions**

**Availability of data to the SCRS**

115. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

**Safeguards**

116. When as a result of a scientific evaluation the goal of maintaining the biomass at  $B_{0.1}$  (to be achieved by fishing at  $F_{0.1}$ ) is not achieved and the trend of the stock dynamics including the evaluation of the biomass shows that the objectives of this plan are in danger, the SCRS shall propose a new advice on TAC for the following years.

**Review clause**

117. For the first time in 2020 and, in any case, after the next stock assessment for the stock of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the Commission following the scientific advice provide by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or in a possible revision of the rules defined therein.
118. Notwithstanding paragraph 117, an ICCAT Intersessional Working Group of Panel 2 shall be established in March 2018 in order to:
- a) Approve the annual fishing plan, annual capacity plans and inspection plans capacity plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 10 of this Recommendation;
  - b) To discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and revise it if so decided.

#### Evaluation

119. All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat not later than 15 October regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate bi-yearly a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

#### Repeals

120. This Recommendation repeals *Recommendation of ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07] and *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04].

ANNEXES

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN BLUEFIN TUNA

Annex 1

**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 35**

1. CPCs shall limit:
  - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
  - The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna.
  - The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49a of this recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

## Logbook requirements

### A - Catching Vessels

#### Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

#### Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type by FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches including:
    - i) FAO code
    - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
    - iii) number of pieces per dayFor purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

#### Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transhipment:

1. Dates and port of landing/transhipment
2. Products
  - a) species and presentation by FAO code
  - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transhipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

#### Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
  - a) Species identification by FAO code
  - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number



5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
  - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
    - amount of catches taken on board,
    - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
    - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO
  - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
    - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
    - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
    - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
    - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

#### **B - Towing Vessels**

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

#### **C - Auxiliary Vessels**

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

#### **D - Processing Vessels**

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. Document

ICCAT Transshipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	Fishing Vessel	Final destination:
Name of vessel and radio call sign:	Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Port:
Flag:	Flag:	Country:
Flag CPC authorization No.	Flag CPC authorization No.	State:
National Register No.	National register No.	
ICCAT Register No.	ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.	External identification:	
	Fishing logbook sheet No.	

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	I2 I0 I I I	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Departure	I I I	III III	From:	I	I		
Return	I I I	III III	To:	I	I	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	I I I	III III		I	I		

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

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product guttetd	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments	
	Lat.	Long.									Date:	Place/Position:
											Authorization CP No.	
											Transfer vessel Master signature:	
											Name of receiver vessel:	
											Flag	
											ICCAT Register No.	
											IMO No.	
											Master's signature	
											Date:	Place/Position:
											Authorization CP No.	
											Transfer vessel Master's signature:	
											Name of receiver vessel:	
											Flag	
											ICCAT Register No.	
											IMO No.	
											Master's signature	

## Obligations in case of transshipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

<b>Document No.</b>	<b>ICCAT Transfer Declaration</b>		
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no. eBCD nbr.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name of destination farm:  ICCAT Register no:  Cage Number:
<b>2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>			
Date: / /	Place or position:Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:			Observer
Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:			
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS</b>			
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
Date: / /	Place or position:Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
<b>4 - SPLIT CAGES</b>			
Donor Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Donor Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.

Annex 5

<i>Flag CPC</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Duration of the Operation</i>	<i>Identity of the Operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
							<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date

Validation of the flag CPC

### ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 87 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

### Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed.

### Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
    - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
    - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
    - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
    - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
  - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
  - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
  - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
  - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
  - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
  - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 93 and 94;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
  - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

**Obligations of the flag CPCs of purse seine vessels and farm and trap State**

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag CPCs of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication;

- c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
- e) The flag CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

#### **Observer fees and organization**

- 12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.



### ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

#### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
  - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
  - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
  - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
  - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
  - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
  - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
  - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
  - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
  - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
  - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
  - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
  - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
  - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
  - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this **Annex**, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

## II. Conduct of inspections




6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this **Annex** shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this **Annex**.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this **Annex**, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master<sup>1</sup> of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this **Annex**, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this **Annex** safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this **Annex**. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.

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<sup>1</sup>Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
- a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
- b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
18. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

<p>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <p> <b>ICCAT</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Identity Card</b></p>		<p> <b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p>
<p> Photograph</p>	<p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> Valid five years</p>	<p>..... ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p>

### **Minimum standards for video recording procedures**

#### **Transfers**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation that shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. If the inspection services are present during the transfer shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

#### **Caging operations**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.

- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

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

### **Use of stereoscopic cameras systems**

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 83 of this Recommendation shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

### **Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome**

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. The farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
  - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
    - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
    - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
  - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.

- ii.3 Caging report including:
- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;
  - algorithm used to convert length into weight;
  - comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be:  $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{BCD})/\text{Stereoscopic System} \times 100$ );
  - margin of error of the system;
  - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
  - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 91 and **Annex 10**;
  - after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall be not higher those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

### Release Protocol

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the traps CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 91.



### **Treatment of dead fish**

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the Flag CPCs quota.

#### **Recording/treating of dead fish during 1<sup>st</sup> transfer**

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead BFT to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

**Minimum Information for Fishing Authorisations**

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and number)

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorisation, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	From... to...	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to
<b>Zones</b>					
<b>Species</b>					
<b>Fishing gear</b>					
<b>Other conditions</b>					