

STATEMENT BY LIBYA TO PANEL 2

Taking into consideration:-

- Libya is the guardian of the principal spawning grounds of E-BFT.
- Libya is a major Mediterranean coastal state and has the biggest fishing grounds within its own EEZ.
- Libya has been a significant player in bluefin fisheries with trap nets since 1930 and more recently with longline and purse seine.
- Despite the difficult political and economic circumstances over the last seven years Libya has continued to manage its E-BFT fishery responsibly adhering to the various ICCAT recommendations.
- Libya has refrained from taking any unilateral decisions regarding the exploitation of fishing stocks within its EEZ as accorded to it by UNCLOS Cl.61.

Libya strongly believes that its responsibilities resulting from the management and safeguarding of the spawning biomass and consequently the sustainability of the fishery as expressed in Res. 15-13 Section III Paras B, C, D are to bear more weight in quota distribution than simple historical catch criteria. Consequently, Libya insists that its existing allocation key is not commensurate with the burden of the above responsibilities and potential fishing capabilities within its EEZ.

Now that the stock is recovering to the levels of 1999 Libya demands that it should be awarded a larger share than the present one on any quota allocation on the eventual increases in TAC above the 1999 levels.