Original: English/Spanish

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

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the Secretariat by **12 October 2018**. Any information received after that deadline will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. This additional information will not be translated.

This report contains only those measures for which review by the Compliance Committee is warranted. In some cases, measures may have expired, but were in force for the review period under consideration (2017).

Request by the Secretariat: As has been noted in recent meetings and can be seen from the information below, the number of ICCAT reporting requirements is continuously increasing and the amount of information being submitted in compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures is of such proportions that not only is the Secretariat having difficulty compiling and translating it, but few delegations have sufficient resources to analyse and examine all the available information in detail. The Secretariat therefore requests that, in concert with the development of online reporting, consideration be given to improving the methodology of the compliance review.

One suggestion that the Secretariat would like to put forward is that the Compliance Committee, and ultimately the Commission, consider developing a more 'strategic plan' which would limit the amount of issues being examined each year (with the exception of *ad hoc* serious issues which may arise), concentrating on particular species and / or subject area. Such concentration would be done in concert with the SCRS evaluations and Commission management cycles – probably one year ahead – e.g. compliance with south albacore to be reviewed in 2019, as current measure will require review in 2020. Concentrating the information in blocks every, for example, three years would reduce the burden on CPCs to submit all reports annually; on the Secretariat in the amount of information to be compiled and translated each year; and on the Compliance Committee, including Chair and Friends of the Chair, who would have more time to review in greater detail the areas under scrutiny. Of course, any other suggestions which Committee members may have which would benefit all parties concerned would be more than welcomed.

TRO – TROPICAL - BET - BIGEYE TUNA (*Thunnus obesus*); YFT – YELLOWFIN (*Thunnus albacares*); SKJ - SKIPJACK (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

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

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans: In 2017, 23 CPCs submitted their fishing plans within the deadline and one was received late. Of these 24, updates/resubmissions from 18 CPCs; the other six remain as submitted in 2017. Of those with a catch allocation under paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01, only one CPC (Philippines) has not submitted any plan to date.

Quarterly catches of bigeye tuna: **Table 1** shows the catches of bigeye tuna in 2017 reported quarterly. Many CPCs report by "fishing year", a concept which may vary from one CPC to another. The question of definition of "quarter" was raised at the intersessional meeting of Panel 1, and at that time there was general agreement that the dates on which quarterly reporting is provided may be determined based on each CPC's fishing year. It is therefore not possible to determine total annual catches on the basis of such reports, or to make any meaningful comparison with Task I or compliance table data.

Task I data for 2017 indicates that the following CPCs fished for bigeye tuna, but no quarterly catch reports were received from these for 2017: Cabo Verde, Guatemala, Guinea Equatorial; Guyana, Namibia, São Tomé & Principe and Trinidad & Tobago. Venezuela submitted data only for the first two quarters of 2017. Of these, Cabo Verde, São Tomé & Principe, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela have submitted the first two quarterly reports required for 2018.

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (document COC-304/18).

Request from the Secretariat: Rec. 16-01, paragraph 2.a) stipulates that: *if the total of catches exceeds the TAC in a given year, the excess amount shall be paid back by CPCs to which a catch limit has been granted for the species concerned. Excess quantities shall be deducted the following year* on a prorata basis from the *adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 9 and 10.* The Secretariat would appreciate having the *prorata* proposed by Panel 1 and examined by the COC before the adoption of the compliance tables, in order to avoid the Secretariat having to take decisions beyond its mandate.

List of authorised Tropical vessels: Please see <u>www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp</u>. At the time of writing, 22 CPCs had vessels on the authorised tropical tuna vessel list. Brazil, Venezuela and Japan have all submitted vessels for inclusion on the list more than 45 days after the start date of the authorisation (see **COC-308/18**). **Annex 5** contains the list of vessels having fished the previous year.

Request for clarification: Rec. 16-01 stipulates that fishing vessels on this list should be 20m or greater. The size limit for support vessels is not so clear to the Secretariat. Clarification is sought as to whether all support vessels, regardless of size, should be included, or whether only support vessels of 20 m or greater need be reported.

Annual report on implementation of the area/time closure:

Reports have been received from European Union, and some information is included in the Annual Report submitted by Ghana. Curaçao, Ghana and Panama have sent copies of the original observer reports (currently not required). Given that these may contain sensitive information, they have not been distributed.

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD

FAD management plans were received from Belize, Curaçao, El Salvador, European Union and Senegal.

Data and information collected from sampling programme:

Information from port sampling as required by paragraph 43 of Rec. 16-01 has been submitted by El Salvador, Curaçao and EU-France. Information in this format for other species has also been provided by Canada and China.

Observer Programme

For the observer programme required by Rec. 16-01, please see Annual Report on implementation of the area/time closure above.

SWO - SWORDFISH (Xiphias gladius)

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

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through Section 4 of Annual Reports. The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document **COC-304/18**. The Secretariat has noted that only three CPCs have completed the Compliance tables with their MED-SWO catches for 2017.

Request from the Secretariat: note that the total quotas allocated in Rec. 16-05 did not exactly equal the TAC, so reducing proportionally by 3% causes difficulties. It is suggested that the exact figures available each year be calculated by Panel 4, as the Secretariat does not have a role in assigning quotas (also, refer to paragraph 4: Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year."

ICCAT Record of Mediterranean Swordfish: Authorised lists were published on the ICCAT web site <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp</u> Late submission of SWO-MED vessel list for EU-Croatia. The list of vessels fishing in 2017 information is contained in **Annex 5**.

Inspection agencies and ships: Information has been received from Algeria, EU, Tunisia and Turkey as reported in **Table 2**. Inspection reports received have been included in **Table 3**.

SWO-MED fishing plans: Plans were received in 2018 from the following CPCs: Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. These plans were circulated inter-sessionally to CPCs and have been made available as **PA4-802/18**.

Closures: Reports on the implementation of closure periods have been received from the five active fishers and are contained in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Request for clarification: A question has been raised during the course of the year regarding the interpretation of Rec. 16-05, paragraph 11 which stipulates that the choice of closed season must be notified by 15 January 2017. There is no provision regarding possible changes to such choice. May CPCs modify the choice of closure, if this is reported in advance to the Secretariat?

Quarterly reports: The quarterly reports received from CPCs for 2017 are shown below. Totals coincide with Task I and Compliance tables except in the case of EU, who have explained that quarterly reports show provisional data (note, no over-harvest has occurred according to any of the data sources).

СРС	2017 quota (t)	Catches in 1st quarter	Catches in 2nd quarter	Catches in 3rd quarter	Catches in 4th quarter	Total 2017 (t)
Algeria	550.00	17.4	203.70	318.60	10.3	550.00
EU	7,410.48	0	1,029.07	2,268.383	1,058.629	4,356.08
Morocco	1,045.00	32.046	661.86	134.6	39.397	867.90
Tunisie	1,007.69	175	435.00	285	108	1,003.00
Turkey	441.00	37.95	175.47	194.84	32.74	441.00
Other CPCs	45.83					
Total	10,500.00	262.396	2,505.10	3,201.423	1,249.066	7,217.982

[17-02] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/18.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of Rec. 17-02, 32 CPCs have informed in their Annual Reports that the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-SWO is not applicable. Some have not given an explanation to "not applicable" while others have explained that they do not have authorised vessels fishing for N-SWO. Some CPCs have presented their by-catch limit:

Belize	10 t
China	Limit for each longliner
Curaçao	10 t
EU-France	Must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.
EU-Spain	0 t allowed
Senegal	5%
Trinidad & Tobago	No limit

N-SWO fishery management/development plans are contained in PA4-801/18.

Specific authorisation for N-SWO vessels: Sixteen CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater to with specific authorisations for N-SWO, including one (Cabo Verde) which has authorised one purse seiner to catch northern swordfish, although Cabo Verde has not been assigned a quota for this species.

Four CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20m or over) authorised to catch N-SWO; Barbados, Mexico, UK-OT, Vanuatu on the ICCAT Record of Vessels.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/18.

[17-03] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-04

Specific authorisation for S-SWO vessels: Twelve CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater to with specific authorisations for S-SWO, including one (Cabo Verde) which has authorised one purse seiner to catch southern swordfish, although Cabo Verde has not been assigned a quota for this species.

Six CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20m or over) authorised to catch S-SWO: Angola, Ghana, São Tomé & Principe, UK-OT, Uruguay and USA on the ICCAT Record of Vessels.

In accordance with Rec. 17-03, paragraph 9, 29 CPCs have informed in their Annual Reports that the maximum onboard by-catch limit of S-SWO is not applicable. Some have not given an explanation to "not applicable" while others have explained that they do not have authorised vessels fishing for S-SWO. Some CPCs have presented the measures taken such as:

Angola	No limit
Belize	10 t
China	Limit for each longliner
Curaçao	10 t
El Salvador	No limit, but catch is minimum
EU-Spain	0 t allowed
Gabon	No limit
Libya	Two per cent limit
Senegal	5%
Trinidad & Tobago	No limit
UK-OT	Any SWO caught in pole & line fishery are released alive

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/18.

ALB - ALBACORE (Thunnus alalunga)

[16-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore

List of authorised vessels: At the time of writing, fourteen CPCs had vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore. The list is included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp</u>

In accordance with Rec. 16-06, paragraph 11, 29 CPCs have informed in their Annual Reports that the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-ALB is not applicable. Some have not given an explanation to "not applicable" while others have explained that they do not have authorised vessels fishing for N-ALB. Some CPCs have explained their limit:

Belize	10 t
Canada	No limit since landings well below 200t
China	Limit for each longliner
Curaçao	50 t
EU-Spain	Maximum catch limit of 5% of total catches. In practice by-catch of this fleet is very low, less than 1% of the total catch.
EU-France	By-catches of bigeye tuna are allowed within the limit of 3 t per vessel and trip, only for vessels holding the northern albacore tuna RFMOs fishing license in the ICCAT area with pelagic trawl gear in the Atlantic Ocean, North of 5 ° N.
Gabon	No limit
Libya	Two per cent limit
Senegal	5%
Trinidad & Tobago	No limit
UK-OT	The catch of northern albacore by Bermuda longline vessels is small and hence no by-catch limit is formally established.

[16-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020

List of authorised vessels: At the time of writing, thirteen CPCs had vessels authorised to fish for southern albacore. The list is included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp

In accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 16-07, 30 CPCs have informed in their Annual Reports that the maximum on board by-catch limit of S-ALB is not applicable. Some have not given an explanation to "not applicable" while others have explained that they do not have authorised vessels fishing for S.ALB. Some CPCs have informed of their by-catch limit:

Angola	No limit
Belize	10 t
China	Limit for each longliner
Curaçao	50 t
EU-Spain	Maximum catch limit of 5% of total catches. In practice, the by-catch of this fleet is very low, less than 1% of the total catch.
Trinidad & Tobago	No limit

Request from the Secretariat: Rec. 16-07, paragraph 4.b stipulates that "by the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year". The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving this information from CPCs when submitting their Compliance tables (by 15 August, deadline established in Rec. 16-16). This issue needs to be discussed at Panel 3 and examined by the CPCs and Compliance Committee before the adoption of the Compliance tables.

[17-05] Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing Management Measures for the Stock of Mediterranean Albacore

List of authorised vessels: Three CPCs (European Union, Libya and Turkey) have submitted their lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation.

BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (Thunnus thynnus)

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

ICCAT Record of FFBs: The ICCAT Record of farms, currently containing 59 farms, is published on the ICCAT website: <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/Ffb.asp</u> Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT web site do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT).

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

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document **COC-304/18** with the E-BFT catches of Algeria in 2017.

[16-24] Guidelines for preparing the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans

Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans were received, within the deadline and following the adopted Guidelines, from all CPCs with a quota for E-BFT. All plans were endorsed.

[17-06] Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

Monthly catch reports: Please see **Table 7** for a summary of reports received during the year. The reported amounts continue to be published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/18.

[17-07] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

NOTE: In recent years, due to the status of BFT-E, reporting for this species was for the year in course i.e. the 2018 fishing season. Notwithstanding, for compliance review purposes, for all other species it is compliance in the previous year which is reviewed. It is suggested that, from 2019 onward and given the improvement in the BFT-E stock, compliance review be aligned with other species i.e. reporting and review of implementation in previous year.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/18.

Fishing Plans: Plans were received within the deadline and, following requests for clarification, were all endorsed by Panel 2 (see 16-24 above).

Joint fishing operations: In 2018, there have been 21 joint fishing operations (JFO). The Secretariat received the necessary information ten days before the JFOs. The information has been posted on the ICCAT webpage: <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.asp</u> and the same information has been registered in the eBCD system.

VMS

This year, at 12 October 2018, a total of 1,948.339 VMS messages have been received (for this overall calculation the messages that the system identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). This means that for the same period 1,904.73 more messages have been received or approximately 9% less messages from one year to the next. In this same period, 871 vessels have been active (as is the case for messages, active vessels are considered to be those which have sent at least one message with an out of port position), which are 60 vessels more than last year or approximately 7% more.

This decrease in the number of messages with an increase, on the contrary, in the number of vessels is due to less reporting in the months outside the fishing season, mainly in May, June and July.

It should be noted that as usual no messages have been recieved for unknown vessels, i.e., not registered on the ICCAT vessel list. This shows an increasing implication of CPCs in the VMS monitoring programme and this should be congratulated.

Improvements can made in the following areas:

- Occasional discrepancies regarding vessel information between data received via VMS and the information sent by CPCs for the Record of Vessels on the ICCAT website.
- Messages received and not correctly formatted in accordance with the NAF format established in Rec. 07-08.

It should be noted that currently these issues are practically anecdotal compared to the start of the VMS project when these issues occurred frequently.

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

– EU-Portugal has not reported any VMS messages during the bluefin tuna campaign [E-BFT].

For more details regarding VMS messages transmitted, please see **Tables 4, 5 and 6**.

Weekly/monthly catch reports: Please see **Tables 8** and **7**, respectively. A comparison between BFT-E weekly catch reports and monthly catch reports is shown in **Table 9**.

Farming reports/caging declarations/carry over of caged fish: In some cases, the caging declarations from European Union were received later than one week after the caging operation. In addition, in 2018, some caging took place later than 15 August (trap to cage, for trap catches taken after 15 August).

Carry-over of caged fish was reported by EU, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, as shown in **Table 10**.

ICCAT Record of BFT Catching / BFT Other vessels: Authorised lists were published on the ICCAT web site https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp No issues to report have been detected from the lists. The list of vessels fishing in 2017 information is contained in **Annex 5**.

Authorised Port lists: There are currently 627 ports on the ICCAT Record authorised for landing and/or transhipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: One CPC (Syria) sent the list slightly late (3 days). Corrections to the list have been received during the year. As the Recommendation is silent on this, it is understood that such corrections are acceptable.

Request for clarification: The Secretariat understands that the non-submission of list of ports for landing/transhipment of E-BFT indicates that such activities must be prohibited in any non-authorised port. Do all CPCs which do not authorise ports for E-BFT activity have to specifically state such prohibition through a submission or through the Annual Report?

Trap lists: There are currently 29 traps on the ICCAT Record authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/Traps.asp.</u> No compliance issues have been detected with the list *per se.* Potential non-compliance issues raised by ICCAT observers during deployment on traps are contained in **COC-305/18**.

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СРС	Date Fishery Closure	СРС	Date Fishery Closure
Albania	24/06/2018	EU-Spain-PS	08/06/2018
Algeria	22/06/2018	EU-Spain-TP	11/06/2018
China	16/11/2017	Iceland	16/10/2017
Egypt	24/06/2018	Japan	19/11/2017
EU-Croatia-PS	13/06/2018	Korea	02/11/2017
EU-Cyprus	22/06/2018	Libya	24/06/2018
EU-France-PS	21/06/2018	Morocco	12/10/2018
EU-Greece	10/05/2018	Norway	15/09/2017
EU-Italy-PS	20/06/2018	Syria	05/06/2018
EU-Italy-TP	24/07/2017	Tunisia	23/06/2018
EU-Malta-PS	22/06/2018	Turkey	24/06/2018
EU-Portugal-TP	02/07/2017	Ch. Taipei	not applicable

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

For fisheries which may be ongoing at the time of writing, the previous closure notification has been reported.

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names: Refer to **Table 3** for the list of bluefin tuna inspection reports submitted by Tunisia and Turkey. The full reports are available as **Annex 3** (electronically only). **Annex 4** contains the list of agencies and the inspectors' names in Algeria, EU, Tunisia and Turkey.

Implementation Reports: Reports on the implementation of the Recommendation were received from Albania, Algeria, China, Egypt, EU, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei. They are available in document **COC-302/18**.

Observer Programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Rec. 14-04, information from national observer programmes is included in regular scientific submissions. Some CPCs also submit national observer reports, but these may contain confidential information and are not distributed. For information on the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, please see documents **PA2-601/18** and **COC-305/18**.

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

[15-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC-304/18.** Rec. 15-05 requires CPCs to report to the Commission the steps taken to implement the provisions of this Recommendation. Belize, Brazil, Barbados, China, Canada, Curaçao, Egypt, European Union, Ghana, FR.SPM, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Mexico, Namibia, Senegal, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, UK-OT, USA, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Chinese Taipei submitted some information. Nineteen CPCs reported not applicable with some explanations. In some cases, non-applicability is not so clear, as CPCs may be reporting only on commercial/distant water fisheries, and not including artisanal/local fisheries. Six CPCs did not respond to this requirement, either because they used an old Annual Report format or they just left the response blank Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Morocco, Nigeria, São Tomé & Principe, and Guyana.

For information on notification of dead discards, responses were included in the Annual Reports of Belize, Brazil, Canada, Curaçao, European Union, FR.SPM, Liberia, Mexico, Senegal, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei.

Twenty-nine CPCs reported not applicable with some explanations. In some cases, non-applicability is not so clear, as CPCs may be reporting only on commercial/distant water fisheries, and not including artisanal /local fisheries. Three CPCs reported not applicable without explanation. Seven CPCs did not respond to this requirement, either because they used an old Annual Report format or they just left the response blank: Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, São Tomé & Principe and Guyana.

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

The transfer in 2017 from Venezuela to the European Union of blue marlin is recorded in document **COC-304/18.**

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

If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67 % of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this recommendation. The total catches, are shown below:

Sailfish catch 2017						
	Stock Year 2017					
SAI	ATE	1,591				
	ATW	1,076				
SAI Total 2,666						
TOTAL		2,666				

Task I reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2017, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. Belize, Brazil, China, Curaçao, Egypt, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, UK-OT, USA, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei submitted some information. Twenty-two CPCs reported not applicable, one of these (Morocco) with no explanation. In some cases, non-applicability is not so clear, as CPCs may be reporting only on commercial/distant water fisheries, and not including artisanal/local fisheries. Eight CPCs did not respond to this requirement, either because they used an old Annual Report format or they just left the response blank (or have left the instruction of how to fill in the requirement): Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Nigeria, São Tomé & Principe, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Guyana.

BYC - BY-CATCH SPECIES

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

Please see Rec. 11-09 below. The Secretariat reiterates its suggestion that these two Recommendations be combined.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

Various collaborative efforts to assemble and analyse observer shark, seabird and sea turtle by-catch data are active within the SCRS (see PLE-105/18). It should be noted that the applicability of the requirements relating to the maximisation of survival of sea-turtles is not dependent on the extent of interactions; i.e. this should be implemented by all those with purse seine and/or longline fishery if any possibility of interaction exists.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in **PLE-105/18**. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs in 2018 are shown below:

	Chinese Taipei	EU.Malta	Korea	Libya	South Africa	Turkey
Night setting	Implemented	Generally not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Implemented	Partly implemented
Tori line	Implemented	Not Implemented	Implemented	Not implemented	Implemented	Implemented on voluntary basis
Line weighting	Implemented	Implemented in bottom longlines. Not implemented in surface longlining	Implemented	Not implemented	Implemented	Implemented on voluntary basis

 Belize, Japan, South Africa and Chinese Taipei sent information on their NPOAs for seabirds specifically stating compliance with the ICCAT requirements (i.e. adopting at least 2 of the 3 mitigation measures).

 The following CPCs have responded not applicable to the requirements under para 7: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Canada, China PR, Curaçao, El Salvador, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Costa Rica and Suriname.

- The EU submitted data on interactions, but only mitigation measures for EU-Malta.
- France St Pierre and Miquelon: fishery remains sensitive to interactions and revises gear accordingly.
- Namibia reported they have an NPOA for seabirds no further details available.
- Trinidad and Tobago specifically stated their difficulties in implementing an NPOA for seabirds and asked for assistance.
- Vanuatu provided their NPOA for seabirds in 2014.

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

facilitate compliance.

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

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

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

See Rec. 10-09 above. To avoid possible redundancies, the Secretariat suggest the Commission considering combining these two measures into one.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

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

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below. Catches have not exceeded 2004 levels in any year.

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

If the average total catch of the North Atlantic blue shark in any consecutive two years from 2017 onward exceeds the average level observed during the period 2011-2015 (i.e. 39,102 t), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures. Data for two consecutive years will not be available until 2019; it is noted that the reference level was exceeded in 2017 (total N. Atlantic catch for 2017 = 39,675 t).

It is suggested that if periodic submissions of shark sheets are to be considered, then this be updated to include all shark measures.

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

In 2018, the Secretariat received updated Shark Sheets from some CPCs as well as first time submissions (see **Appendix 3**). It was agreed in 2017 that there would be review of these submissions in 2018 by the Compliance Committee.

[17-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

The data submitted by CPCs on shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as on dead discards during the first 2018 semester are compiled in **Table 12.** The total reported catch (retained and discarded) for the first semester is 1,530 t. According to the ICCAT database, catches of shortfin mako were reported in previous years by Barbados, Senegal and Venezuela, but the catches for the first six months of 2018 were not reported by these three CPCs.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE:

GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

[94-09] Resolution by ICCAT on compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures (including Addendum)

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

swordfish fisheries

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through **COC-304/2018**.

[96-15] Resolution by ICCAT on large-scale pelagic driftnets

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through COC-304/2018.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

No vessel sightings were reported to the Secretariat in 2018.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

CPCs have implemented Rec. 00-14, and through the form CP13 have reported their underages/overages for the species under quota/catch limit management. These are presented in document **COC-304/18**.

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

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in document ${\rm COC-304/18}$.

[01-18] Resolution by ICCAT further defining the scope of IUU fishing

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

Information on imports and landings were submitted in accordance with this measure by China, Curaçao,

Egypt, El Salvador, EU (Malta), Japan, Korea, Tunisia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey and Chinese Taipei. Nicaragua confirmed no imports and no landings. The information submitted by CPCs is contained in **Annex 1** (electronic only).

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

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

No potential non-compliance information under Rec. 08-09 was reported to the Secretariat in 2018 within the deadline.

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

Compliance Tables are contained in **COC-304/18**.

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

Following the 2017 Commission meeting, prohibition was imposed on Angola, Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau, and the prohibition was maintained for Sierra Leone, Philippines and Vanuatu¹, as no response from these parties had been received for the years for which Task I was missing.

The Secretariat is pleased to report that the prohibition has been lifted from Angola, Cabo Verde and Sierra Leone. It should be noted that this latter has admitted the possibility of minor artisanal catches of tuna and tuna-like species and has requested assistance from the Secretariat/ICCAT to develop a more effective data collection programme.

Currently only Philippines remains with prohibition in force, but Task I data for 2017 is missing for several CPCs, including Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Republic of Guinea, Mauritania, Philippines. Neither catch data nor confirmation of zero catch in 2017 has been received for these CPCs, although Republic of Guinea has reported zero catches for commercial species on compliance tables.

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

The information gathered by the Secretariat during 2018 is presented in document **PWG-405/18**.

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

Information on contact points for AREP and receipt of reports is published on the password protected area of the ICCAT web site under <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/portinspection.html</u>, as well as any infringements reported and the actions taken.

According to this Recommendation, the port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT

¹ Confirmation of zero catch later received from Vanuatu, after 12 October, prohibition lifted on 22 October 2018.

Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. Inspection reports were received in 2017 from Cabo Verde, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Tunisia and South Africa and in 2018 from Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Tunisia and South Africa, although not always within the 14 day deadline. These have been maintained on file at the Secretariat, as the Recommendation is silent as to the actions the Secretariat should take following receipt of these reports, except in cases where an infringement has been found.

In 2018, one infringement was reported by South Africa during the inspection of a Japanese vessel (species on board not consistent with AREP). As this was within the jurisdiction of the port State, a fine was issued. Two infringements were reported by Tunisia in relation to Libyan vessels (documentation required for BFT incomplete).

The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the ICCAT website at <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp</u>. In 2018, four additional Contracting Parties submitted their lists of ports. The table below shows which CPCs have submitted lists of ports, and which have not:

СРС	List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported	Observations	CPC	List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported	Observations
Albania	YES		Mexico	NO	n/a, no explanation
Algeria	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed	Morocco	YES	
Angola	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels enter Angolan ports	Namibia	YES	
Barbados	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed	Nicaragua	NO	no report
Belize	NO	n/a; Belize currently has not active designated port into which foreign vessels may request entry.	Nigeria	NO	n/a, no explanation
Brazil	NO	n/a, Brazil does not have agreement to grant access to their ports to foreign fishing vessels.	Norway	YES	
Canada	YES		Panama	YES	
Cabo Verde	YES		Philippines	NO	no report
China PR	NO	Not yet implemented, see COC-309 response to Chair's letter	Russia	YES	
Côte d'Ivoire	YES		São Tomé and Príncipe	NO	no report
Curaçao	NO	n/a no designated ports	Senegal	YES	
Egypt	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed to enter Egyptian fishing ports	Sierra Leone	NO	no report
El Salvador	YES		South Africa	YES	
European Union	YES		St Vincent & Grenadines	NO	Have not yet been established

Reporting of designated ports under Rec. 12-07

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CPC	List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported	Observations	CPC	List of ports designated to allow entry of foreign flagged vessels reported	Observations
France SPM	YES		Syria	NO	n/a, due to circumstances in Syria
Gabon	YES (but awaiting details for publication)	Libreville and Port-Gentil reported through Annual Report	Trinidad & Tobago	NO	Has encountered difficulties in implementation
Ghana	YES		Tunisia	YES	
Grenada	NO	no report	Turkey	NO	n/a, no access granted to foreign vessels
Guatemala	NO	n/a, has not yet designated any ports	UK-OT	NO	No UKOT has foreign vessels using its ports
Guinea Ecuatorial	NO	no report	United States	YES	
Guinea Bissau	NO	no report	Uruguay	YES	
Guinea Rep.	NO	no report	Vanuatu	NO	n/a, not a coastal State
Honduras	NO	no report	Venezuela	NO	n/a, no foreign vessels allowed
Iceland	YES		Bolivia	NO	no information
Japan	NO	n/a, does not designate ports for this purpose	Chinese Taipei	YES	
Korea	YES		Costa Rica	NO	Costa Rica has not authorised ports to foreign flagged vessels in the coastline adjacent to the Convention Area.
Liberia	NO	does not have specific port for said purpose	Guyana	NO	no report
Libya	YES		Suriname	YES	
Mauritania	YES				

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

See also 14-10 below.

Updates to internal actions reports (presented in the form CP10) were received from Belize, Curaçao, Ghana, Libya, Mexico, Russia and Tunisia. These are contained in **Annex 2** (available electronically only).

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering

The chartering summary reports are contained in **Appendix 2** and the table summarizing the chartering arrangements reported in **Table 11**. Some difficulties remain in receiving coherent information from both parties involved in a timely manner. For this reason, and with a view to the possible future online reporting, the Secretariat suggests that the forms for reporting information be modified to a vessel-by-vessel approach. The chartering summary report (**Appendix 2**) reflects two vessels chartered by Namibia which do not appear in the chartering arrangements reported to the Secretariat.

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements

Updates relating to ongoing Access Agreements were received from Morocco and Liberia since the last Commission meeting. Some of the agreements reported in previous years were multi-annual and are still ongoing. Liberia and Mauritania have both sent information on catches taken by foreign flagged vessels in their waters under such ongoing agreements, and Senegal has included additional information as an Annex to its Annual Report.

The following CPCs responded to the requirements GEN-0018 and/ or GEN-0019 in their annual reports: Angola, Belize, Cap Vert, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Senegal, UK-OT, Chinese Taipei and Suriname. Thirty-seven CPCs reported not applicable with some explanations, in both or at least one of the requirements. Four CPCs did not respond to either of these requirements, either because they used an old annual report format or they just left the response blank: Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, São Tome & Principe and Guyana. Mauritania did not respond in the Annual Report, but has sent catches relating to foreign flagged vessels.

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

During its 12th meeting in Madrid in 2018, the IMM discussed a proposal to amend Rec. 14-09. It was decided by the IMM to further review the proposal during the 2018 PWG meeting. The draft proposal will be submitted to the PWG for consideration.

The current Recommendation does not contain any direct reporting requirements, and no compliance issues with the application of the Recommendation have been reported or detected.

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

Brazil, Venezuela and Japan have all submitted vessels for inclusion on the list more than 45 days after the start date of the authorisation.

[15-09] Resolution by ICCAT Establishing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Recommendation 11-15 by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in the Case of Non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations

Please see Rec. 11-15 above

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

Several CPCs have indicated difficulties in implementing scientific observer programmes (see **COC-311/18**) With the exception of those who reported no fisheries, the following CPCs has not submitted form ST09 on observer data at the time of writing (12 October); Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guatemala, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, UK-OT, Venezuela and Guyana.

[16-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment

Carrier vessels and associated LSPLVs are published on the ICCAT web site in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at <u>https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp</u>.

PWG-402/18 contains more information. PNCs reported by observers and responses from CPCs are contained in **COC-305/18**. The reports of the observers have been published on the ICCAT web site (https://www.iccat.int/en/ROP.html) as required by the Recommendation.

Request for clarification: Paragraph 22 of Rec. 16-15 stipulates that: *These reports [by CPCs on transhipment] shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration. The Secretariat shall post these reports to a password protected website.* Currently the documents published for the Commission and subsidiary bodies are not password protected. Is it necessary for the Secretariat to also publish the information on a password protected site if they are already available as a Commission document? Or should the information be password protected and the password distributed to participants at the Commission? Note: In 2017 and 2018 the information has been included in the 'open-access' Commission documents.

SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

[No measures currently active]

SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS

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

Information can be in documents **PWG-401/18 and PLE-105/18**.

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

Quantities of bigeye continue to be imported by some CPCs either from Oman which has no validation information for this species in ICCAT database or from unclassified fishing flags which makes it difficult to distinguish whether or not the exporting fishing flags have submitted their validation information. A small quantity of bigeye has been imported by a CPC from Grenada which has no validation information in the ICCAT database.

More information can be found in documents **PWG-401/18** and **PLE-105/18**.

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

Please see document **PWG-401/18** for information on the implementation of Rec. 11-20 under the eBCD system. Refer also to Rec. 17-09 below.

[17-09] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system

In accordance with Annex 3 of Rec. 17-09, outside the Secretariat's office hours and the technical assistance' hours contracted with the consortium, any CPC can self-register an incident on the ICCAT webpage https://www.iccat.int/en/eBCDprog.asp to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. In 2018, one incident has been reported by the European Union.

More information on the eBCD systems can be found in documents **PWG-401/18** and **PWG-403/18**.

TOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

[16-19] Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System

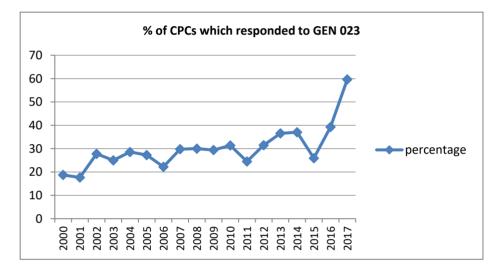
Information on progress to date can be found in document COC-306/18

MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

[99-07] Resolution by ICCAT on improving recreational fishery statistics

The figure below shows the percentage of CPCs which have included some information (including if not applicable) in their Annual Reports in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Resolution.

Given that the wording of the Resolution is vague ["each CPC provide specific data to SCRS to allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish"], the Commission may wish to better define the information required.



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

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname currently enjoy cooperating status. Review of compliance by Cooperating Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities is included in document **COC-308/18**. Both Bolivia and Costa Rica have indicated in writing that they wish such status to be renewed, although annual application is not required (refer to Annex 2 of document **COC-310/18**).

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

Please see **PLE-105/18** for more details on statistical reporting, as well as Rec. 11-15 above. One non-Contracting Parties without cooperating status voluntarily submitted Task I in 2018 (for 2017 catches), St. Kitts & Nevis, with 122 t of tuna and tuna like species, including 8 t of blue marlin.

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[12-13] Revised guidelines for the preparation of the Annual Reports

In document **COC-311/18**, the Secretariat has prepared a summary of section 5 of Part II of the Annual Reports ("*Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures*") presenting the main difficulties of some CPCs and raising the possible need for technical assistance.

List of Tables

Table 1. Quaterly bigeye catches 2017, Rec. 16-01.

Table 2. Names of authorized government agencies and individual inspectors submitted in 2018 (Rec. 17-07, Annex 7).

Table 3. Inspection reports received in 2018, Rec. 17-07, Annex 7 and Rec. 16-05, Annex 1.

Table 4. VMS messages received by CPC and by number of vessels (14/10/2017-12/10/2018, both dates included, no port positions included).

Table 5. Vessels that have been registered in the ICCAT List of Vessels from May to July 2018 and in some of the weeks during this interval have not issued VMS messages.

Table 6. Vessels that have not been registered in the ICCAT List of Vessels during May-July 2018 (or whose authorisation has expired) and which have issued messages during this period.

Table 7. Summary of monthly catch reports received (as of 12 October 2018).

Table 8. Weekly reports of E-BFT catch received to 12 October 2018.

Table 9. Comparison of BFT weekly and monthly catches.

Table 10. Summary of caging reports.

Table 11. Information on chartering in 2017-2018.

Table 12. Catches of shortfin mako in first semester of 2018.