

APCCR  
STATEMENT TO PANEL 2. ICCAT November 2018

ICCAT has proven to be an organization efficient in implementing management and control measures, which has led to the recovery of eastern Bluefin tuna, 4 years before the target, in line with the Plan established in this city in 2006. Therefore, on behalf of our organization, we wish to congratulate you.

Measures such as establishing a minimum size of 30 kg (Bluefin tuna Catch Document, BCD, International Observer) have furthermore made this possibly one of the most regulated and controlled fisheries in the world.

In spite of everything, it is inevitable that some operators, supposedly, have evaded this control, a control that undoubtedly pertains to the governments that you represent. It is pointless to create norms in this organization if, later, some countries do not put in the same effort in enforcing them.

The measure to limit or prohibit the *so-called Carry Over* on farms in the future Management Plan (since, tuna has been bought and paid for by the farmers after a thorough control of the inspection services of each member country of the Organization) contradicts the principles of exploiting resources in a sustainable way, not only environmentally, but also economically and socially.

Putting a deadline that requires selling a resource that has become privately owned through an economic transaction, violates all the principles of free trade, restricts competition, and makes the main buyer of this product benefit by forcing us to empty our cages independently of the market situation or of the prices that the buyer wants to offer us.

Indeed, the novel system of keeping alive a wild fishing resource in breeding or fattening cages results in an improvement in the quality of the product, generating a high added value, and makes it possible to regulate the supply and demand in a difficult sector such as the Primary Sector.

On the other hand, you cannot change the rules of the market every time someone is reported for allegedly committing an infraction or irregularity. What is needed at that time is to be bold and punish those who committed the alleged infringing act, in addition to expelling them from the fishery.

If you have definite evidence, do it, but do not change the rules of the market and harm the trade of those who scrupulously comply with the resolutions emanating from this Organization. Keep in mind that millions in investments are at stake, as well as thousands of jobs.

Many Thanks