

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

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the Secretariat by **18 October 2019**. Any information received after that date will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. Such 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 (2018).

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 (amended by Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing and Amending Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme For Tropical Tunas [18-01])

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans: Between 2017 and 2018, 24 CPCs had submitted their fishing plans. There is no longer any requirement to submit these plans. Of those with a catch allocation under paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01, only one CPC (Philippines) has not submitted any plan to date. Three updated plans were received in 2019, and these have been made available to Panel 1 in original language only.

Quarterly catches of bigeye tuna: Table 1 shows the catches of bigeye tuna in 2018 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 2018 indicates that the following CPCs fished for bigeye tuna, but no quarterly catch reports were received from these for 2018: Guatemala and Equatorial Guinea and for the last two quarters in the case of Mexico.

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (document COC-304/19).

List of authorised Tropical vessels: Please see www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp. Annex 5 contains the list of vessels having fished the previous year.

At the time of writing, 24 CPCs had vessels on the authorised Tropical Tuna Vessel list. In 2019, Belize, Namibia and Venezuela all submitted vessels for inclusion on the list more than 45 days after the start date of the authorisation (see COC-308/19), in contravention of Recs. 16-01/14-10.

Ghana submitted an additional purse seiner IRIS-S to replace two baitboats, requesting this to be placed on the ICCAT Record of Vessels despite being informed in advance by the Secretariat of the provisions of Rec. 16-01, para 12c (which require prior submission of fishery management plan to SCRS, SCRS review, and acceptance by the Commission). In accordance with Ghana's request, the [IRIS-S / IMO 8210493] was added to the Record by the Secretariat, which duly informed the Compliance Committee Chair. Following correspondence with the Compliance Committee Chair, in which the Compliance Chair advised Ghana again that the vessel was added in contravention of the requirements of Rec. 16-01, on 18 August 2019 Ghana agreed to withdraw another vessel from the Record (namely AVEL HUEL) and replaced that vessel with the new vessel, thereby keeping the total PS vessels at 17. Ghana then submitted the response contained in document PA1-502/19 indicating its intention to seek Commission approval of an additional vessel. Notwithstanding, although Ghana's updated fishing and management plan was submitted indicating an additional purse seiner, the SCRS did not assess the impact of this change, a requisite for the possible approval of Panel 1.

Paragraph 12b restricts the number of fishing vessels, and in particular number of longliners and purse seiners.

The number of these currently on the ICCAT Record of Tropical Tuna Vessels is shown below:

<i>Flag</i>	<i>Limit under Rec. 16-01</i>		<i>2019</i>	
	<i>Longliner</i>	<i>Purse seiner</i>	<i>Longliner</i>	<i>Purse seiner</i>
CHINA	65		41	
EU	269	34	190	57
GHANA		17		17
JAPAN	231		182	
PHILIPPINES	5			
KOREA	14		12	
CHINESE TAIPEI	75		55	
Grand Total	659	51	480	74

Request for clarification: Rec. 16-01 stipulates that fishing vessels on this list should be 20m or greater. In 2019, the ICCAT Record included 24 fishing vessels of less than 20m submitted by four CPCs for inclusion in the Tropical Tuna Vessel Registry List (see table below). Clarification is sought as to whether these types of vessels, regardless of size, should be included, or whether only vessels of 20 m or greater need be reported as stipulated by Para 31 of Rec. 16-01: *“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] shall apply mutatis mutandis to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels .*

The number of vessels less than 20m" on the Tropical Tuna Vessel List.

<i>Flag State / Vessel Type</i>	<i>LH</i>	<i>LL</i>	<i>LP</i>	<i>UN</i>	<i>Total</i>
EU- Spain	15			1	16
Mexico	2	3			3
Panama		1			1
Senegal			4		4
Grand Total	15	2	4	1	24

Guidance is sought as to whether these vessels should be included/remain on the Record in the future.

Annual Report on implementation of the area/time closure:

Information has been included in the Annual Reports submitted by El Salvador, European Union, Ghana and Senegal.

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

FAD management plans were received in 2019 from Belize, Curaçao and Guatemala and are contained in **Annex 6**. Ghana has indicated in its Annual Report that the plan submitted in 2015 is still applicable. EU sent a list of vessels permitted to enter the closed area and information on the observer programme being implemented.

Data and information collected from sampling programme:

Information from Port sampling as required by paragraph 43 of Rec. 16-01 has been submitted by Canada and Curaçao.

Observer Programme

For the observer programme required by Rec. 16-01, please see Annual Report on implementation of the area/time closure above. In some cases, CPCs sent copies of the observer reports. It should be noted that this is not a requirement and the Secretariat has no way to treat this information.

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 Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document **COC-304/19**.

Request from the Secretariat: note that the total quotas allocated in Rec. 16-05 did not exactly equal the TAC, so reducing proportionally by 10% causes difficulties. It is suggested that the exact figures available to each CPC for 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 vessels: Authorised lists, received from seven CPCs, have been published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. The list of vessels fishing in 2018 is contained in **Annex 5**.

ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports: A total of 746 ports, from a total of six CPCs are published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>. Egypt has reported vessels for the SWO-MED vessel list, but has not reported any authorised landing ports.

Inspection agencies, inspectors and ships: Information has been received from EU, Tunisia and Turkey. Lists of agencies and inspectors as reported in **Annex 4**. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of the inspection reports received has been included in **Table 2**.

SWO-MED fishing plans: Plans were received in 2019 from the following CPCs: Algeria, European Union, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. These plans were circulated interessionally through ICCAT Circular 1646/19 to CPCs and have been made available as **PA4-802/19**.

Closures: Reports on the implementation of closure periods have been received from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey and are contained in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Quarterly reports: The quarterly reports received from CPCs for 2018 are shown below. Totals coincide with Task I and Compliance tables in three cases, but discrepancies exist in the other three. The TAC has in no case been exceeded.

2018 CPC quarterly reports of MED-SWO catches in metric tonnes [Rec. 16-05, para. 37]

CPC	2018 quota (t)	Catches in 1st quarter	Catches in 2nd quarter	Catches in 3rd quarter	Catches in 4th quarter	Total	Task I	Compliance Tables
Algeria	533,49	20,3	179,6	323,8	4,8	528,50	528,00	528,00
EU*	7206,5	0	586,646	2014,696	1031,537	3632,88	4067,00	3937,33
Morocco	1013,61	0	873,77	37,34	63,99	975,10	1013,00	1013,00
Tunisia	977,463	160	143	502	169	974,00	974,00	974,00
Turkey	427,77	29,124	185,453	180,592	31,831	427,00	427,00	427,00
Other CPCs	44,18							
Libya		9,4	33,2	48,33	49,2	140,13	70,00	No report
Total	10203,013	218,824	2001,669	3106,758	1350,358	6677,61	7079,00	6879,33

* 2018 quota figure taken from compliance table but may be subject to change pending confirmation by CPC.

[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-304/19.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of Rec. 17-02, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-SWO:

Belize	Belize has established an onboard by-catch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern swordfish. The by-catch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any northern swordfish taken as by-catch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting N-SWO, all the SWO are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch SWO. In 2019, China has 93,964 t quotas of N-SWO, we set a catch limit for N-SWO for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to recommendations of N-SWO. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Curaçao	
EU-France	The catching and landing of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw length of less than 125 cm is prohibited, except for by-catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.
EU-Spain	Spain's fleet is not allowed to take swordfish by-catch.
Senegal	5% awaiting for the decree which will officially establish this limit is signed and published.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for N. SWO by Trinidad and Tobago.

N-SWO fishery management/development plans: Updated versions received are contained in PA4-801/19. Re-submission is no longer required if there have been no changes to previous plans. Late submissions were not translated but are included in **Annex 2 of PA4-801/19**.

Specific authorisation for N. SWO vessels: Fifteen CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater with specific authorisations for N. SWO.

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

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/2019.

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

Specific authorisation for S. SWO vessels: Ten CPCs have authorised vessels of 20m or greater with specific authorisations for S. SWO.

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

In accordance with Rec. 17-03, paragraph 9, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports that the maximum on board 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:

Belize	Belize has established an onboard by-catch limit across the board for all species inclusive of southern swordfish. The by-catch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessels that have reported any southern swordfish taken as by-catch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting S-SWO, all the SWO are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch SWO. In 2019, China has 326.76 t of S-SWO, and sets a catch limit for S-SWO for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to S-SWO recs. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
El Salvador	According to records in the data developed by observers, only 3 swordfish were caught in 2018. This information can be verified in the form.
EU-Spain	Spain's fleet does not allow to take swordfish as by-catch.
Senegal	5% awaiting for the decree which will officially establish this limit is signed and published.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for S. SWO by Trinidad and Tobago.
UK-OT	Any SWO caught in pole & line fishery are released alive.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/19.

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, thirteen CPCs had vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore. The list is included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at:

<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>

In accordance with Rec. 16-06, paragraph 11, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of N-ALB:

Belize	Belize has established an onboard by-catch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern albacore. The by-catch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, Belize does not have any vessels that have reported any northern albacore taken as by-catch.
Canada	No limit since landings well below 200 t.
China	China does not have vessels targeting N-ALB, all the ALB are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2019, China has 268.75 t of N-ALB, and sets a catch limit for N-ALB for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to N-ALB Recs. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
EU-Spain	Spain's fleet does not allow to take albacore as by-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.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for N. ALB by Trinidad and Tobago.

[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, twelve 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, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on maximum on board by-catch limit of S-ALB:

Belize	Belize has established an onboard by-catch limit across the board for all species inclusive of southern albacore. The by-catch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, Belize does not have any vessels that have reported any southern albacore taken as by-catch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting S-ALB, all the ALB are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2019, China has 220.05 t of S-ALB, and set a catch limit of S-ALB for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to S-ALB Recs. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
EU-Spain	Spain allows albacore by-catch by Surface longline and catches South of 5 ° N. The maximum catch limit is 5% of the total catches. In practice, this fleet's by-catch is very low, less than 1% of the total catch.
Trinidad and Tobago	No onboard by-catch limit has been set for S. ALB by Trinidad and Tobago.

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

List of authorised vessels: Two CPCs (European Union and Turkey) have submitted 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 58 farms, is published on the ICCAT website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ffb.asp> Annual lists/authorisations are not required, and the number has not changed since the previous year. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT website do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT).

[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 and can be found attached to the Report of the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 [PLE-103/19].

[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-304/19.

[17-07] *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;*

and;

[18-02] *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea*

NOTE: In recent years, due to the status of E-BFT, reporting for this species was for the year in course i.e. the 2019 fishing season, rather than, as for all other species, the previous year. The new measure, Rec. 18-02, entered into force during the fishing season. On previous occasions, CPCs have undertaken to implement the new measure for the whole season; in 2019 some CPCs indicated that they would not implement Rec. 18-02 until its entry into force on 21 June 2019. Hence, for the 2019 season, two different measures apply.

Request for clarification: Last year, the Secretariat suggested that, starting in 2019, the reporting and revision of the application for E-BFT be aligned with the other species and related to the previous year and not the year of the meeting. The Committee referred this to Panel 2. Panel 2 reported that there had been general support for this approach; however, one CPC noted that fishery information that becomes available for the current year, such as from ROP observer reports or other means, which may have implications with respect to a CPC's compliance, should be able to be considered during the Commission meeting. Confirmation of what should be reviewed each year for E-BFT would be helpful to all, to ensure understanding is the same for all CPCs as well as the Secretariat, Chair and Friends of the Chair.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC-304/2019.

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

Joint fishing operations: 22 joint fishing operations (JFO) were reported for 2019. The Secretariat received the necessary information five days before the JFOs. The information has been posted on the ICCAT webpage: <https://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.asp> and the same information has been registered in the eBCD system. The shortened deadline makes it difficult to get full information to the ROP observers in time for their embarkation.

VMS

This year, up to 18 October 2019, a total of 1,926,246 VMS messages have been received (in calculating this total, the messages that the systems identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). In comparison with the same period last year, 22,093 fewer messages have been received or approximately 1.13%. Over the same period this year, 932 vessels have been active (as in the criterion for messages, active vessels are considered to be those that have transmitted at least one message with an out of port position), which is 61 vessels more than last year, i.e. an increase of approximately 6.54%.

While there has been an increase in the number of vessels, the decrease in the number of messages is due to the lower reporting in the months outside of the fishing season, particularly in the months of May, June and July.

Messages have not been received from unknown vessels, i.e. not registered on the ICCAT List of Vessels.

Specific discrepancies still remain between the data received via VMS from vessels and those transmitted by CPCs for the Record of Vessels on the ICCAT website. In addition, some messages have been received that do comply with the NAF format established in Rec. 07-08. EU-Portugal and EU-Greece have not transmitted VMS messages in 2019.

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

Weekly/monthly catch reports: Please see **Tables 7** (monthly) and **Table 8**(weekly). A comparison between E-BFT weekly catch reports and monthly catch reports is shown in **Table 9**. Since the entry into force of Rec. 18-02, monthly catch reports are not obligatory for the eastern stock. The Secretariat has used cumulative weekly reports in the cases where these were not submitted.

Farming reports/caging declarations/carry over of caged fish:

Tunisia informed the Secretariat that 400 t of fish would be caged after the 22 August (but before 7 September *force majeure* deadline) in farm number **AT001TUN00004**. This delay was mainly due to the following circumstances: a change in destination of the fish on the basis of late agreements between the Tunisian operators and their European counterparts; essential logistical preparations in Tunisian fattening farms that had not been operational for at least two seasons; time taken to obtain the agreement of the flag States for the caging of some catches; further investigations and control transfers requested by the flag States.

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

ICCAT Record of BFT Catching / BFT Other vessels: Authorised lists were published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. No issues to report have been detected from the lists. The list of vessels fishing in 2018 information is contained in **Annex 5**.

Authorised Port lists: There are currently 626 ports on the ICCAT Record authorised for landing and/or transhipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>

Trap lists: There are currently 31 traps on the ICCAT Record authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Traps.asp>. 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-305/19**.

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

CPC	Date Quota Utilised	CPC	Date Quota Utilised
Albania	01/06/2019	Libya	22/06/2019
Algeria	20/06/2019	Morocco	22/10/2019
China**	28/10/2018	Norway**	31/10/2018
Egypt	27/06/2019	Syria	01/06/2019
European Union*		Tunisia	10/06/2019
Iceland**	28/11/2018	Turkey	30/06/2019
Japan**	26/11/2018	Chinese Taipei	not applicable
Korea	30/10/2018		

* No report may mean 2019 quota still available at time of writing.

** Fishery may be still ongoing in 2019.

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

Implementation Reports: These are no longer required, although domestic legislation may be requested by the Secretariat for a biennial report to the Commission. Three implementation reports (Syria, Turkey and Chinese Taipei) were submitted voluntarily, and are contained in **COC-303/19, Annex 10**.

Observer Programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Recommendations, 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 **PA2-601/19** and **COC-305/19**.

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 (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks [18-04])

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document **COC_304/19**. For other information, please refer to Rec. 18-05 below.

[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:

Task I data:

<i>Sailfish</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
ATE	1,650	1,183
ATW	1,080	1,250

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. These reports are included in the Billfish Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-05 below).

[18-05] Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Billfish Caught in the ICCAT Convention Area

Only 26 Billfish Check Sheets (less than 50% of all CPCs) were received within the deadline. The following CPCs submitted the information late: Brazil, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, UK (OT), Uruguay and Costa Rica.

Despite this requirement being obligatory for all CPCs, no Billfish Check Sheets were received from: Angola, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, France/St. Pierre et Miquelon, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau (Rep. of), Guinea (Rep. of), Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, São Tomé e Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Bolivia, or Guyana.

Algeria, Norway and Turkey requested exemption from this requirement in accordance with the procedures established, but the SCRS considered that the guidelines for granting exemptions should be further developed and reviewed in 2020. The reporting requirement therefore will remain in force for all CPCs until further review.

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 / 18-06 below.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 / 18-06 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 / 18-06 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 / 18-06 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 / 18-06 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 / 18-06 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-105/19**). 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. In many cases, it is unclear from reporting whether the measures have been implemented in a legally binding way. It is recommended that CPCs cite the relevant domestic legislation in their Annual Reports to avoid such uncertainty.

[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 / 18-06 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-105/2019**. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs in **2019** are shown below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Belize	Two of the three measures may be chosen by LL south of 25°S	Yes for 20-25°. Two of the three measures may be chosen by LL south of 25°S	Two of the three measures may be chosen by LL south of 25°S	In place	No CP44 submitted in 2019 but written report sent
EU-Malta	Night setting is generally not applied for most surface longline and bottom longline operations	Not applied	Line weighting utilised in bottom longlines but generally not in surface longlining	No national plan of action is currently into place	
EU-Portugal	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Iceland	No directed fisheries in 2018 or 2019	No directed fisheries in 2018 or 2019	No directed fisheries in 2018 or 2019		
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place	
Korea	No	Yes	Yes	In place	
Libya	No	No	No	No by-catch recorded in ICCAT species	
Chinese Taipei	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place	
Turkey	Partly implemented	No legal obligation exists, implemented on a voluntary basis			
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place	

The Secretariat has proposed, in consultation with the Chair of Panel 4 a measure combining Rec. 11-09 and Rec. 07-07 in order to streamline compendium and facilitate compliance (see document **PA4-803/19**).

[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. The reference level was exceeded in 2017, but not in 2018.

<i>Blue Shark</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
North Atlantic	39,664	33,853

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

Please see Shark Check Sheets (**COC-314/19**) for implementation of this measure.

[16-13] Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-13 on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [18-06]

Twenty-four CPCs submitted updates to the Shark Check Sheets within the deadline, and a further thirteen CPCs submitted the check sheets after the deadline. No updates were submitted by the following:

Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), Honduras, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, Russia, São Tomé e Príncipe, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Bolivia or Guyana.

Algeria, Norway and Uruguay had requested exemption from this requirement in accordance with the procedures established, but the SCRS considered that the guidelines for granting exemptions should be further developed and reviewed in 2020. The reporting requirement therefore will remain in force for all CPCs until further review.

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-304/19**.

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

Please see Rec. 08-09 for more information.

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

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through **COC-304/19**.

[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 transshipments and vessel sightings

No vessel sightings were reported to the Secretariat in 2018.

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

The Secretariat has nothing to report 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-304/19**.

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

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in document **COC-304/19**.

[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 ICCAT Convention 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

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

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

Completed forms containing information on imports and landings were submitted in accordance with this measure within the deadline by China, European Union (Malta), Japan, Korea, Tunisia, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei. The information submitted by CPCs is contained in **Annex 1**.

[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

Four issues have been reported to the Secretariat by NGOs in 2019. These, together with responses to date, are available in **COC-312/19**.

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

Compliance Tables are contained in **COC-304/2019**

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

Following the 2018 Commission meeting, prohibition was imposed on Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea (Rep. of) and Mauritania and the prohibition was maintained for Philippines, as no response 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 Mauritania and at the time of writing progress is being made with Equatorial Guinea (awaiting official confirmation of zero catch in 2017).

No Task I or zero catch reports have been received from the other CPCs for 2017. In addition to the aforementioned, no Task I statistics for 2018 were sent during 2019 by the The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), Philippines, São Tomé e Príncipe or Venezuela, as shown in **Appendix 3**.

A history of prohibitions applied is contained in **Annex 8**.

[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 (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities [18-08])

The information gathered by the Secretariat during 2019 is presented in document **PWG-405/19**.

[12-07] Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT On Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing [18-09])

Information on contact points for AREP and receipt of reports is published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website under <https://www.iccat.int/en/portinspection.html>, as well as any infringements reported and the actions taken. In some cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements:

Request from the Secretariat: In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the ICCAT website, it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the Flag State.

Rec. 18-09 provides that the submission of inspection reports in which no infraction has been found is voluntary. A summary of reports received is contained **Table 3**. Those with possible infringements are contained in **Annex 11**.

Reporting of designated ports under Rec. 18-09

The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the ICCAT website at <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>.

Some CPCs have not yet submitted their lists of ports; in other cases it is unclear from the information available whether the requirement is applicable. Further clarification may be required from the following: Angola, Barbados, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep. of), Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Guyana.

[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 Rec. 14-10 below for issues of retroactive reporting. At the time of writing, IMO numbers were still missing from eight vessels of 20m or greater, one from each of Brazil, Libya, Senegal and UK (OT), and four from Mexico.

Updates to internal action reports (presented in the form CP10) were received from Belize, Ghana, Libya, and Mexico. These are contained in **Annex 2**.

[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 future online reporting, the Secretariat intends to modify the forms for reporting information on a vessel-by-vessel approach. CPCs will be informed at the time of the change. Meanwhile, bilateral coordination before or at time of reporting the information to the Secretariat would greatly facilitate processing.

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements

Updates relating to ongoing Access Agreements were received from EU, Liberia and Morocco 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 full list of Access Agreements is contained in **Annex 9**.

The following CPCs responded to the requirements GEN-0018 and/or GEN-0019 in their Annual Reports: Belize, Cabo Verde, China P.R., Curaçao, El Salvador, EU, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Senegal, Chinese Taipei and Suriname. Thirty-one 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: Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mauritania and Guyana.

In order to avoid any confusion with Task I reporting, the Secretariat is working on a revised reporting forms for submitting information on Access Agreements; both for the Agreement itself and for the catches made under such agreements.

[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 (Replaced by Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area [18-10])

The current Recommendation does not contain any direct reporting requirements. For compliance issues with the implementation of VMS, please refer to Rec. 18-02. No compliance issues with Rec. 18-10 have been detected.

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

Belize, Namibia, Panama and Venezuela 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. The Secretariat has drafted **COC-317/19** showing the information on observer programmes currently available. It should be noted that, some alternative management measures have been indicated, but in no case have these been endorsed by the SCRS and/or Commission as the procedure requires.

[16-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment

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

PWG-402/19 contains more information. PNCs reported by observers and responses from CPCs are contained in **COC-305/19**. The reports of the observers have been published on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/ROP.html>) as required by the Recommendation.

[18-11] Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

Contact points have been published on the ICCAT website at:
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Res_18-11_InspectionPersonnelPilotProgram.xlsx

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 found in documents **PWG-401/19** and **PLE-105/19**.

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

Côte d'Ivoire, EU and Turkey have reported importation of quantities of bigeye tuna and/or swordfish with 'unclassified' fishing flag, and in some cases area/Ocean unknown. Bigeye tuna continues to be imported by some CPCs from Oman which has no validation information for this species in ICCAT. USA has reported imports of south Atlantic swordfish from Guyana which has no quota for this species.

More information can be found in documents **PWG-401/2019** and **PLE-105/2019**.

[11-20] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program / (Replaced by: Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 18-13])

Please see document **PWG-401/19** 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 (Replaced by: Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the EBCD System [Rec. 18-12])

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 web page <https://www.iccat.int/en/eBCDprog.asp> to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. In 2019, no issues have been reported.

More information on the eBCD systems can be found in documents **PWG-401/19** and **PWG-403/19**.

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-306/19**. A draft Recommendation to extend the mandate of the Technical Working Group has been presented in **COC-302/19**.

MISC - MISCELLANEOUS

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

Information is included in Annual Reports (**COC-301/19**) and in Task I statistics. 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-308/19**. Two requests for Cooperating status have been received in 2019; Colombia and Georgia. Colombia have addressed many points required under Rec. 03-20, but no further information has been received from Georgia. Their applications are contained in **COC-307/19**.

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

Please see **PLE-105/19** for more details on statistical reporting, as well as Rec. 11-15 above. One non-Contracting Party without Cooperating status, St. Kitts & Nevis, voluntarily submitted Task I in 2019 (for 2018 catches), including 12 t of blue marlin. No Task I reports were received from Dominica or Sta Lucia, which were estimated by SCRS.

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time, other than to note that Guyana has reported, in its Annual Report, that *“the influx of sargassum weeds and possible effects of climate change hindered the capture of marine species during 2018”*.

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

Document **COC-311/19**, contains 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.

As previous years, some CPCs continue to send outdated versions of the tables, incomplete versions of the report, several updates and corrections, as well as incomplete answers, particularly in the case of ‘not applicable’. These cases seriously hinder the ability of the Secretariat and Chair to carry out an analysis of the information in an orderly and timely fashion.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Quarterly catches of bigeye tuna 2018.

Table 2. Summary of JIS inspection reports received.

Table 3. Summary of Port inspection reports received.

Table 4. VMS messages received by CPC and number of vessels.

Table 5. Vessels that during May-July 2019 have been registered in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and that during some of the weeks of this period have not issued any VMS messages.

Table 6. Vessels that during May-July 2019 have not been registered in the ICCAT Record of Vessels or whose authorization has expired yet have issued VMS messages during some of the weeks of this period.

Table 7. Monthly catch reports (BFT-E and BFT-W).

Table 8. Weekly catch reports (BFT-E).

Table 9. Weekly catch reports vs. monthly catch reports – E-BFT.

Table 10. Summary of E-BFT caging reports

Table 11. Summary of reported chartering arrangements.