

Original: English/French/Spanish

**IMPLEMENTATION OF REC. 16-14: SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAMMES**

*ICCAT Secretariat*

*The Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs [Rec. 16-14], paragraph 10 d) stipulates that each CPC: provide in its Annual Report for use by the Commission and the SCRS, specific information on the implementation of this Recommendation, which shall include: details on the structure and design of their scientific observer programs, including, inter alia: - the target level of observer coverage by fishery and gear type as well as how it's measured; - data required to be collected; - data collection and handling protocols in place; - information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the CPC's target level of observer coverage; - observer training requirements; and - observer qualification requirements.*

To collect this information in a coherent format, the Secretariat, in consultation with the SCRS, developed form ST11, which replaced the previous form CP45, which had been developed in response to a similar requirement in Rec. 10-10. Since the entry into force of that Recommendation, no ST11 (nor the previous CP45 form) has been received from: Angola, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt<sup>1</sup>, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea Equatorial, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay<sup>2</sup>, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Bolivia and Guyana. A summary of the responses to this requirement in the Annual Reports submitted in 2019 from these CPCs is shown below

Notwithstanding, information in the Annual Reports from Namibia, Norway, and South Africa indicates that observer programmes are in place in these CPs, which have sent completed ST09 (observer data) forms.

Guinea Equatorial, Liberia, Nicaragua, Vanuatu and Bolivia have confirmed that there are no fisheries and/or no catches of ICCAT species.

**Appendix 1** shows a summary of the information received in 2012 in response to Rec. 10-10. According to the information available from the 2012 and 2019 summary, it appears that in some cases observer programmes may be in operation but that the corresponding data is not being submitted in the ST09 format in all cases.

**Annex 1** (Excel file, available electronically only) shows:

- i) Summary of ST11 (or CP45 if no ST11) forms submitted over the past two years, including an extract of the column entitled "Plans for implementing a Fisheries Observer Program or alternative scientific monitoring approach if vessels are less than 15m LOA".
- ii) A summary of which CPCs submitted ST09 data in 2019 (ST09 2019).
- iii) A summary of the Appendix from document PLE-105/2019 summarizing the National Observer Program information. This includes information directly extracted from the ST11s, notably which fleets are covered as well as more complete information about the coverage, sampling scheme and geographic coverage.

It should be noted that to date, the SCRS has not evaluated any alternative approaches to scientific observer programmes, and hence the Commission has not endorsed any such alternative approaches. CPCs wishing to seek such endorsement should make an explicit request for the SCRS to evaluate its approach.

<sup>1</sup> Information on national BFT observer programmes received, but not included on scientific observer summary.

<sup>2</sup> Uruguay sent information in 2012, but the file is corrupted and cannot be opened. Currently have no ICCAT fisheries.

Extracts from Annual Reports submitted in 2019 from CPCs which have not completed ST11 / CP45

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response in Annual Report to "Implementation of Rec. 16-14"</i>	<i>Comments in Section 5 of AR specific to national observer programme</i>
Angola	No annual report received	
Barbados	Barbados is examining options to comply with this recommendation.	
Cabo Verde	No scientific summary included in report	
Côte d'Ivoire	No scientific summary included in report	
Egypt	Egypt is establishing a new workshop between GAFRD and some relative authorities as initiative step to implement the minimum standers in accordance with Rec. 16-14	
Gabon	No response included	
Grenada	No Annual Report received	
Guinea Equatorial	N/A, due to a lack of qualified observers. Training needed.	
Guinea Bissau	No Annual Report received	
Guinea Rep	No Annual Report received	
Honduras	Submitted late on 25 September 2019. However, as indicated in this report, no activity exists in ICCAT fisheries and therefore no programs of onboard observers have been implemented.	
Liberia	N/A. No fishing vessel was authorized to do said fishing.	
Mauritania	No	
Namibia	None	One of the challenges is the limited availability of trained Observers and scientists to collect and analyse the much needed biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities, especially from the shark fisheries. There is also limited capacity, both in terms of availability of resources and research vessels, to carry out dedicated scientific research on sharks and other ICCAT managed species and this is complicated by the fact that these species are highly migratory and trans-boundary. Last, but not least, there is a need to put in place measures to assess the extent of turtle and other by-catch species that may go unreported. SCRS could assist CPCs in developing and implementing such measures.
Nicaragua	N/A (as Nicaragua does not yet have a tuna fleet in the Atlantic)	
Norway	Norway did not have a specific National Scientific Observer Program for bluefin tuna in 2018. Following the requirements in Recommendation 17-07, the Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in 2018 carried regional observers 100% of the time, and national scientists from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research were onboard the vessels for 25 of the 48 days the vessels	

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response in Annual Report to "Implementation of Rec. 16-14"</i>	<i>Comments in Section 5 of AR specific to national observer programme</i>
	were fishing actively for bluefin tuna. Hence national scientists were onboard the vessels more than 50 % of the time the vessels were fishing actively for bluefin tuna. We have used available information from the scientific observers and the regional observers and combined this with the electronic reports from the vessels. By combining these data, we have been able to provide the necessary information in ST09, and the data were forwarded to the SCRS 25/07/2019.	
Panama	No Annual Report received	
Philippines	No Annual Report received	
São Tomé e Príncipe	No Annual Report received	
Senegal	Recommendaiton 14-16 to establish minimum standards for observer programs was supplemented by decree No. 22787, dated 22 August 2019. Its implementation is ongoing and Senegal is developing a support project for the observer program.	The aging and the reduced number of observers makes it difficult to implement the national scietific observer program. To this effect, there is a need to train and strengthen the capacities regarding the collection of data, identification of species, biological sampling, upgrading to conduct scientific tasks onboard.
Sierra Leone	No Annual Report received	
South Africa	15/09/2019. Annual Scientific Report [description of programme in Section 2 of Annual Report]	
Syria	Only one vessel operated for BFT and the regional observer submitted report to ICCAT	
Trinidad & Tobago	Domestic observer program not yet implemented	
Uruguay	04/07/2019 [ <b>Sec note:</b> email received 31 July indicating "during 2018 the Uruguayan tuna fleet was not operational. "We do not have information on catches".	
Vanuatu	N/A	
Venezuela	No Annual Report received	
Bolivia	The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not include vessels in the Commission area	
Guyana	No Annual Report received	

Summary of information reported in 2012

CPC	82 - Observer progs structure	83 - Observer data	84 - Alternative methods
ALBANIA			
ALGÉRIE	31 July 12	31 July 12	not applicable
ANGOLA			
BARBADOS			
BELIZE	31 July 12	31 July 12	31 July 12
BRASIL	31 July 12	31 July 12	31 July 12
CANADA			
CAP-VERT			
CHINA, People's Rep. of	25 June 12	30 July 12	31 July 12
CHINESE TAIPEI	25 June 12		Not applicable
COLOMBIA	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
CÔTE D'IVOIRE			
CROATIA			
CURAÇAO			
EGYPT	15 July 12	15 July 12	Not applicable
EUROPEAN UNION	31 July 12	30 August 12	
France (St-Pierre & Miquelon)	09 August 12	09 August 12	Not applicable
GABON			
GHANA	23 July 12	23 July 12	23 July 12
GUATEMALA	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
GUINEA ECUATORIAL			
GUINÉE REPUBLIC			
GUYANA			
HONDURAS			
ICELAND	19 July 12	19 July 12	19 July 12
JAPAN	31 July 12	31 July 12	Not applicable
KOREA, Rep. of	31 July 12	31 July 12	Not applicable
LIBYA	16 July 12	16 July 12	Not applicable
MAROC			Not applicable
MAURITANIA			
MEXICO	5 July 12		Not applicable
NAMIBIA			
NICARAGUA	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
NIGERIA			
NORWAY	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
PANAMA			
PHILIPPINES	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
RUSSIA	25 June 12		Not applicable
SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE			
SENEGAL	Not applicable		
SIERRA LEONE			
SOUTH AFRICA			
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES			
SURINAME	14 May 12		
SYRIA			
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO			
TUNISIE	18 July 12	26 June 12	

CPC	82 - Observer progs structure	83 - Observer data	84 - Alternative methods
TURKEY	22 June 12	Not applicable	30 July 12
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
UNITED STATES	29 June 12	31 July 12	Not applicable
URUGUAY	02 July 12		
VANUATU			
VENEZUELA			