

**EXPLANATORY NOTE TO DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE
RECOMMENDATION 16-01 BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*Draft prepared by the Chair of Panel 1 and
revised by Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal*

These proposals for amendment of the recommendation proposal of the ICCAT Panel Chair to replace Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas has been submitted by a group of six (6) countries, which are ICCAT CPCs: Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea- Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal.

Our six countries are committed to rebuilding the bigeye tuna stock, building on the progress made in 2018 in the negotiations on a way forward. Consequently, our discussions and the attached changes to the draft proposal of the Panel 1 Chair have taken into account the submissions of the different CPCs in 2019.

Development of a new tropical tunas conservation and management programme must be guided by Recommendation 11-13, which requires that management measures for stocks that are overfished and subject to overfishing, as is currently the case for bigeye tuna, be designed with a high probability of ending overfishing in a short a period as possible. In our view, an ambitious rebuilding objective, i.e. a 60% probability of achieving B_{MSY} is consistent with the "high probability" required under Rec. 11-13, and given the reductions necessary to achieve this recovery, a period of fifteen (15) years is the most practical period possible for achievement of this recovery.

According to SCRS projections, to achieve these objectives will require a 20 to 25% reduction in bigeye tuna catches from 2018. The changes proposed in the attached draft proposal aim to achieve these objectives through the combination of a reduced TAC, which is implemented on the basis of provisional catch limits, and an extended closure of the FAD fishery. In addition, the amendments have been drafted to protect the requirements and special rights of developing coastal States.

CPCs should be reminded that Recommendation 11-13 requires that the Commission adopt immediately management measures to rebuild overexploited stocks. Adoption this year of decisive and particularly effective measures for bigeye tuna would therefore enable our CPCs to deliver on this commitment.

We welcome the prospect of a constructive Panel 1 meeting and we look forward to the discussions with the other CPCs on the revised proposal of the ICCAT Panel 1 Chair.

<i>Issue</i>		<i>p</i>	<i>Drafting proposal ICCAT</i>	<i>Range CPC input</i>	<i>Observation / Chair's consideration</i>
Catch limits for BET	Multiannual programme	1	60% probability of B_{MSY} in 10 years	50 - 60% probability of B _{MSY} in 10 - 15 years	Mostly in agreement with draft proposal of the Chair (PA1_REV_16_01). Four CPCs expressed a preference for a lower and/or longer rebuilding programme.
	BET TAC level	2	60,000 t for 2020, 2021, 2022	TAC between 50,000 t - 62,500 t	One submission suggests 65,000 t, but this does not meet the 50% threshold of recovery.
	BET allocation trigger	3	1,250 t in any of preceding 5 years	Vast majority is between 1,250 t - 1,575 t with one outlier of 2,000 t	There is universal support for lowering the trigger.
	BET allocation	3	90%	General agreement with the concept	Must be linked to overall threshold, historical catches, and resolution 15-13; will be a difficult negotiation.
	Gear specific contribution	4		Mostly no feedback (therefore agreement assumed). However, input from one CPC to strengthen the language to ensure the intent of the measure is being met. Another CPC suggests removal, which would go against the general support.	Given concerns related to the high catches of juveniles in recent years and the need to reduce those catch levels significantly, the 2015 reference year was considered too generous by USA. Concerns in relation to the implementation were expressed as well, amending a sentence to more clearly specify the limitations applicable (split into 4 bis).
	Catch limit (non-) developing coastal states not listed in p3 table	5	1,250 t for 2020, 2021, 2022	Mostly no feedback, but some suggest to increase the limit - a limit of 1,575 t is a sticking point of two developed coastal states.	Here no distinction necessarily needed between developing / non-developing. 1,575 t would highly increase chances of consensus.
DCS catch limit trigger	6	1,250 t in 2020, 2021, 2022	Only one CPC provided input	If using a 1,575 t catch limit in p5 for developed states, the limit for developing states should be above that to ensure an equitable approach that recognizes the rights of DCS. A limit of 2,100 t could be considered (used in p4 of Rec. 16-01).	

	TAC control	9-10	80% reached notification; if exceeded review of measures	Only one CPC provided input	It was noted that this paragraph should be accompanied by rigorous reporting requirements in order to be implemented (USA).
	Underage/coverage	11-13		Range of 0-10% maximum underage carryover, but most happy with 5%. Also: carry over of underage to be reviewed in 2023; flexibility in carry forwards for Small Harvesters.	
	YFT TAC Level	14-16	110.000 t & based on stock assessment	Consensus: YFT TAC level to be revised based on the scientific advice.	
	Distribution of YFT TAC			Catch limits for major harvesters; fair and open allocation; historical catches and realistic trigger for other countries as to avoid overshooting; remove 2020 reference.	
Capacity management measures	Capacity limitation applicable to tropical tunas	17	Limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-Annual program	Largely agreement to have some form of capacity limitation (Rec. 16-01 or freeze PS/LL at OR below the level registered in recent years - 20XX). One submission wanted no capacity limitation.	Given status of stock, some capacity reductions may be warranted. There should be no new PS introduced while the stock has not recovered. This is also required to effectively prevent operators to circumvent the rules via reflagging (comment from EU). Given the current stock status, at least developed CPCs should be prohibited from increasing their capacities (comment from Japan). Developing CPCs to prepare capacity intentions if they plan to increase participation in ICCAT TT fisheries.
		17 bis - quinquies		Additional clarification on support/supply vessels.	

FAD management	FAD Closure	19	2-3 months closure period	Largely agreement on 2-4 month Atlantic-wide drifting FAD closure for purse seine fishery.	
	Limits imposed on FADs	20	2020: 300 p/vessel, 2021: 250 p/vessel, 2022: 200 p/vessel	General support for lowering FADs to 200 or 250 per vessel, scaled down if necessary. One submission wants 400 FADs per vessel.	
		21	CPC with PS shall limit the number of floating objects set to 2015 level	Varying opinions	Further discussion needed. If strict FAD set limits adopted, could allow for some flexibility in other areas. Need to have more clarity on the level of information available on actual FAD set numbers in recent years.
	Biodegradable non-entangling FADs	30	Non-entangling	General agreement to implement biodegradable and non-entangling in near future. One submission suggests too soon to do bio-degradable. Also interest in addressing dFAD recovery.	
Control measures	Observers	44	For LL 10% by 2021	General agreement on 100% PS, and significant support for increasing LL coverage while allowing for EM in addition to 5% human observer coverage. One CPC strong on that at least the current 5% human observer coverage must remain.	
	Addition MCS measures			Some interest in strengthening ICCAT transshipment provisions. Perhaps could do some of that in this measure or develop complementary measure.	

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**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE
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AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*Draft prepared by the Chair of Panel 1 and revised by
Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal*

RECALLING the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

NOTING that the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna are currently overfished, and that bigeye tuna is also subject to overfishing;

RECOGNISING that the TAC for bigeye tuna for 2017 was exceeded by more than 20% and that this level of catch is projected to reduce the probability to reach the Convention objectives by 2028 is less than 10%;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the TAC for yellowfin tuna was also exceeded in 2016 by 37% in 2016 and by 26% in 2017;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna mortality;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY);

FURTHER NOTING that supply vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of supply vessels has increased significantly over the years;

RECALLING the significant body of international law that promotes the special requirements and rights of developing States, including but not limited to Article 119 of UNCLOS and Article 25 and Part VII of UNFSA;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Multi-annual Management, Conservation, and Rebuilding Programme

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic shall implement a 15 year Rebuilding Programme Plan for bigeye tuna starting in 2020 and continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with a probability of more than 60%.

**PART II
CATCH LIMITS**

Catch limits for bigeye tuna

2. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be [57,500 - 60,000 t] for 2020, 2021, and 2022.
3. CPCs with bigeye tuna catches exceeding an average catch of 1,250 t during the 2014-2018 period will be assigned annual catch limits, as described in paragraph 6bis and 6ter.
4. CPCs shall not shift bigeye tuna catch from non-purse seine vessels to purse seine vessels.
5. CPCs that have less than 1,250 t of catches for the 2014-2018 period and are not developing coastal States shall not increase catches above [1,250 t] in 2020, 2021, and 2022.
6. If the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal State CPC with average catches less than 1,250 t for the 2014-2018 period, exceeds [1,250 t] in 2020, 2021, and 2022, a catch limit shall be established for that CPC for the following years. The catch limit shall be agreed with due consideration to the rights of developing coastal States, the circumstances at hand, and the sustainability of the stock.

6 bis CPCs that are developing coastal States will receive 50% of the TAC with the following provisional catch limits:

<i>Developing coastal States CPCs</i>	<i>Provisional annual catch limit for tuna for 2020-2022 (t)</i>
Brazil	
Ghana	
Curaçao	
Cabo Verde	
Panama	
Belize	
Senegal	
All other developing coastal CPCs	If the catch of a developing coastal State CPC exceeds 1,250 t in 2020, 2021 and 2022, a catch limit will be established in accordance with paragraph 6

6 ter CPCs that are not developing coastal States will receive 50% of the TAC, with the following provisional catch limits:

<i>CPC that are not developing coastal States</i>	<i>Provisional annual catch limit for tuna for 2020-2022 (t)</i>
EU	
Chinese Taipei	
Japan	
China (People's Rep. of)	
El Salvador	
All other CPCs which are not a developing State	1,250 t each

7. The provisions of paragraph 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources.
8. The annual catch limits described in paragraphs 6bis and 6ter of this Recommendation do not constitute long term rights and are without prejudice to any formal process of allocation. The Commission shall initiate a procedure to determine that the appropriate allocations of bigeye are coherent with the provisions of Resolution 15-13.
9. Each quarter, CPCs shall report to the Secretariat their bigeye catches taken by their flag vessels at the end of the following quarter. When 80% of the TAC is reached for a given year, the Secretariat shall notify that to all CPCs.

[9 bis. Placeholder – USA may request rigorous reporting requirements]

10. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 2, the Commission shall review these measures.

Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna

11. Overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 6bis and 6ter for bigeye tuna shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2018	2019 or 2020
2019	2020 or 2021
2020	2021 or 2022
2021	2022 or 2023

12. Notwithstanding paragraph 11, if any CPC exceeds its catch limit under paragraph 3 or 5:
 - a) In one year, then the amount deducted in the adjustment year shall be determined as 100% of the overage; and
 - b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the excess harvest.

TAC for yellowfin tuna

13. The annual TAC for 2020 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme in 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.

14. [Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2020 annual meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures or allocated catch limits.]
15. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 13, the Commission shall consider additional management measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2020 annual meeting. Any other measures shall recognise the obligations of international law and the rights of CPC developing coastal States.

Prohibition on discards

16. CPCs whose purse seiners are authorized to catch bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area of the Commission in accordance with paragraph 31 shall require that their vessels retain onboard and land or tranship in port all the bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna caught in accordance with the procedures and the exceptions described in Recommendation 17-01.

**PART III
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Capacity limitation for tropical tuna

17. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Programme, in accordance with the following provisions:
 - a) The capacity limitation shall apply to longline and purse seine vessels flagged to CPCs specified in the tables under paragraphs 6bis and 6ter that are 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area;
 - b) By 31 January each year, each CPC that has a limit under paragraph 6 shall produce an annual capacity plan that outlines how that CPC will ensure that its overall longline and purse seine fleet capacity will be managed to ensure that the CPC can meet its obligation to limit bigeye catch according to the tables under paragraph 6bis and 6ter.
 - c) Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessels by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005, on the basis of two baitboats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the Commission at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting. The approval is notably subject to the assessment by the SCRS of the potential impact of such a plan on the level of catches.
 - d) For CPCs for which a capacity limitation applies, vessels fishing tropical tunas in the Convention area may be replaced only by vessels of equivalent capacity or lesser vessels.
 - e) Any CPC intending to increase its participation in ICCAT fisheries for tropical tuna shall endeavor to prepare a statement of its development intentions for tropical tuna with the purpose of informing other CPCs of potential changes in the fishery over time. These statements will include details of proposed/potential fleet additions, including vessel size and gear type. The statements shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those coastal CPCs may amend their Statement as their situation and opportunities change and other CPCs may contact the relevant CPCs to seek clarification on any element of the Statement.
 - f) The Compliance Committee shall annually review CPCs compliance with capacity management measures.

- 17 bis.* Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those vessels were active in 2019 in the Area of Competence of ICCAT, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that received the support of each support vessel. This information shall be reported no later than 31 January 2020. The Secretariat shall prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this, CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels as from the numbers recorded by the time of adoption of this measure.
- 17 ter.* Starting in 2020, CPCs shall limit their number of support/supply vessels, to a maximum of [1 support/supply vessels for a minimum of 5] authorised purse seiners operating in the context of FADs related fisheries¹.
- 17 quater.* For the purposes of this measure, a supply vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited to deploying, servicing and retrieving FADs.
- 17 quinquies.* Starting in 2020 CPCs shall ensure that all supply vessels have [100%] observer coverage.

PART IV MANAGEMENT OF FADs

FAD Management Objectives

18. The general objectives for management of FADs and supply vessels in the Convention area are defined as follows:
- a) To minimize potential impacts that high FAD density may have on purse seine fishing efficiency, while minimizing disproportionate impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;
 - b) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that result from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;
 - c) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, including entanglement of marine species, particularly those of conservation concern;
 - d) To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by preventing the beaching, stranding or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of pelagic habitat.

FAD Closure

19. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for, or vessels supporting activities to fish for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs in the high seas or EEZs shall be prohibited to deploy, support, or fish off drifting FADs during a [three] month period between 1 January and 31 March each year. This should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised based on advice by the SCRS taking into account monthly trends in free school and FAD-associated catches.
- 19 bis.* In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels:
- a) do not deploy drifting FADs during the closure period and for a period of 15 days prior to the start of the selected closure period; and
 - b) recover within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period a number of drifting FADs equal to the number of drifting FADs previously set upon during the previous two months.

¹ CPCs with less than 5 purse seine vessels may have 1 supply vessel.

FAD Limitations

20. CPCs shall ensure that for vessels flying their flag shall apply the following limits on the number of FADs with instrumental buoys are active at any one time in relation to each of its vessels through the verification of telecommunication bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:

- a) 2020: 300 FADs per vessel
- b) 2021: 250 FADs per vessel
- c) 2022: 200 FADs per vessel

20 bis FADs shall be activated on the vessel at the time of their deployment and shall remain active until they are retrieved or lost.

21. CPCs with purse seine vessels shall limit the number of floating object sets to 2015 levels².

22. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is capable of verifying set type, species composition, and providing information on fishing activities to the SCRS.

23. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the impact of supply vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2020.

FAD Management Plans

24. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 31 January each year.

25. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be to:

- i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on targeted and non-targeted species;
- ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
- iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FAD's set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).

26. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 1**.

FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

27. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying fish aggregating devices (FADs), collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:

- a) Deployment of any FAD

² In the case of developing CPCs with growing domestic fleets, the baseline used for each vessel in the fleet shall be the first full year that the vessels operated under that CPC's flag.

- i. Position
 - ii. Date
 - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
 - v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)
- b) Visit on any FAD
- i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy³, retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD⁴)
 - ii. Position
 - iii. Date
 - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
 - vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)
- c) Loss of any FAD
- i. Last registered position
 - ii. Date of the last registered position
 - iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to above and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider using the template laid down in **Annex 2** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs shall use the minimum standards recommended by SCRS in **Annex 3**.

28. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 20 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 4**.

Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels

29. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
- i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
 - ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
 - iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
 - iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
 - v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;

³ Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FAD's owner).

⁴ A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FAD (opportunistic).

- vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
- vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

30. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, and the release of synthetic persistent marine debris, CPCs shall:
 - i. Ensure that all FADs deployed are non-entangling in line with the guidelines under **Annex 5** of this Recommendation, in accordance with previous ICCAT recommendations;
 - ii. Ensure that as of January 2021 all FADs deployed are non-entangling, and constructed from biodegradable materials including non-plastics with the exception of materials used in the construction of FAD tracking buoys;
 - iii. Report on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with these provisions in their FADs Management Plans.

**PART V
CONTROL MEASURES**

Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas

31. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels

32. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels, including support vessels. Fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.
33. A CPC may allow by-catch of tropical tunas by vessels not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 31 and 32, if this CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch in question is accounted for within the CPC's catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels and information about how the CPC ensures compliance with the limit. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
34. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
35. CPCs shall, without delay, notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.
36. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.

37. 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.

Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year

38. Each CPC shall, by 31 July each year, notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area or have offered any kind of support to the fishing activity (support vessels) in the previous calendar year. For purse seines this list shall also include the support vessels that have supported the fishing activity, irrespective of their flag.

The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of vessels to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

39. The provisions of paragraphs 31 to 37 do not apply to recreational vessels.

Recording of catches and fishing activity

40. Each CPC shall ensure that their vessels of 21 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tuna in the Convention area record their catches in accordance with the requirements of Annex 6 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

Identification IUU activity

41. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
42. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.
43. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 35, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 34, on the provisional IUU list.

Observers

44. For observers on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area east of meridian 20°/West longitude and north of parallel 28°/ South latitude the following shall apply:
- a) Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.

45. For longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10% observer coverage of fishing effort by 2021, through the presence of human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or an approved Electronic Monitoring system. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
- 45 bis. The SCRS shall provide advice on the best metrics for observer coverage to be measured by as well as how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve maximum effectiveness.
- 45 ter. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, including through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers. CPCs that trial electronic monitoring shall share technical specifications and standards with the Commission towards the development of agreed ICCAT standards.
- 45 quater. [Placeholder – USA may request at least the current 5% human observer coverage must remain]
46. For purse seine vessels flying their flag and targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure 100% observer coverage of fishing effort, through the presence of an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or through an approved electronic monitoring system. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS. CPCs shall work to attain 100% observer coverage, through the presence of an onboard observer or an approved electronic monitoring system.
47. Starting in 2020 CPCs shall ensure that all supply vessels have [100%] observer coverage.
48. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under domestic observer programs, including on the observer coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the Annual Meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

Port Sampling Programme

49. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

PART VI MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES/MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

Management Strategy Evaluation and Candidate Harvest Control Rules

50. The SCRS shall refine the MSE process in line with the SCRS roadmap and continue testing the candidate management procedures. On this basis, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g. purse seine, longline and bait boat) on juvenile mortality and the yield at MSY.

**PART VII
FINAL PROVISIONS**

Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists

51. CPCs shall ensure that:
- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 40 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 27, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
 - b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.
52. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data related to FADs (e.g. logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, subject to relevant confidentiality constraints.
53. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide to its national scientists full access to:
- a) VMS data of their fishing and support vessels and trajectories of FADs;
 - b) Data recorded by echo-sounders;
 - c) FAD logbooks and the information collected pursuant to paragraph 22;

Confidentiality

54. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with ICCAT's data confidentiality guidelines and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

Repeals and review

55. This Recommendation replaces Rec. 16-01 and shall be reviewed in 2022.

Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and bait boat fleets must include the following:

1. Description
 - a) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
 - b) Type of beacon/buoy
 - c) Maximum number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
 - d) Minimum distance between AFADs
 - e) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
 - f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
 - g) Statement or policy on "FAD ownership"
 - h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs
2. Institutional arrangements
 - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management plan
 - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
 - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
 - d) FAD replacement policy
 - e) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
 - f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
 - g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
 - a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
 - b) Lighting requirements
 - c) Radar reflectors
 - d) Visible distance
 - e) FAD markings and identifier
 - f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
 - h) Satellite transceivers
 - i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
 - j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
 - k) Management of FADs recovery.
4. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan
5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD Management Plan

FAD logbook

FAD marking	Buoys ID	FAD type	Type of visit	Date	Time	Position		Estimated catches			By-catch			Observations	
						Latitude	Longitude	SKJ	YFT	BET	Taxonomic group	Estimated catches	Unit		Specimen released alive
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...
...

- (1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed
- (3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (4) I.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.
- (5) dd/mm/yy.
- (6) hh:mm.
- (7) N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.
- (8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.
- (9) Use a line per taxonomic group.
- (10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.
- (11) Unit used.
- (12) Expressed as number of specimen.
- (13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

Table 1. Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 7).

<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Example</i>
DFAD ^[1] _[SEP]	Drifting FAD	Bamboo or metal raft
AFAD	Anchored FAD ^[1] _[SEP]	Very large buoy
FALOG	Artificial log resulting from related to human activity (and related to fishing activities)	Nets, wreck, ropes
HALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)	Washing machine, oil tank
ANLOG	Natural log of animal origin	Carcasses, whale shark
VNLOG	Natural log of plant origin	Branches, trunk, palm leaf

Table 2. Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 8).

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
FOB	Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
	Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
	Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
	Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
	Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
	Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB ¹
Buoy	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB ²
	Remove BUOY	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

¹ A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).

² Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD & electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated buoy ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated buoy and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>	<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>			
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			(6)
...
...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries

1. The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.
2. The sub-surface components should be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).
3. When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.

Requirements for Catch Recording

Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - (a) Type FAO code
 - (b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - (a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
 - (b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - (c) Record of catches
6. Species identification:
 - (a) By FAO code
 - (b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
 - (c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information in case of landing, transhipments:

1. Dates and port of landing /transhipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 37 of this Recommendation shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - Sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - Satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - The ability to observe and record accurately;
 - The ability to collect biological samples;
 - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.
2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observer and shall:
 - (a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
 - (b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
 - (c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.
3. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
 - (a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

- i. Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - ii. Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iii. Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv. Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
 - v. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
 - vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with **Table 1** below.
- (b) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
5. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
6. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this Annex.

Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels

7. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
 - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in point 3 of this Annex:
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.
 - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

Table 1. FOB/FAD information added to observer onboard form to comply with RFMOs recommendations. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 9).

<i>Properties</i>	<i>DFAD</i>	<i>AFAD</i>	<i>HALOG</i>	<i>FALOG</i>	<i>ANLOG</i>	<i>VNLOG</i>
FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB	X	X		X		
Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)	X	X		X		
Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)	X	X	X	X		
Approximate surface area of the FOB	X	X	X	X		
Specifies the FOB's ID whenever present	X	X	X	X		
Fleet owning the tracking device/ echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel owning the tracking device/ echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)		X				
Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)		X				
Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Tracking device TYPE+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined.	X	X	X	X	X	X