

**REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2**  
(Madrid, Spain, 4-7 March 2019)

**PART 1: EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING, FARMING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1. Opening of Part 1 of the Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan). Part 1 discussed and endorsed the capacity, fishing, inspection and farming plans for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock in 2019 and discussed interpretation of certain rules of Recommendation 18-02.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur for Part 1**

Antonio Lizcano (European Union) was designated as rapporteur of Part 1.

**3. Adoption of Agenda (Part 1) and meeting arrangements**

The proposed agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participating delegations. **Appendix 2** includes a list of delegates from each Contracting Party, as well as observers.

**4. Consideration of fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans for 2019 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota**

The European Union (EU) raised the issue of entry into force of the measures in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 18-02], which following ICCAT rules would enter into force in June 2019 if no objection is raised. In case that Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) opted for an earlier implementation of Rec. 18-02, the EU stressed the need to apply all provisions of Rec. 18-02 including the new control obligations as well as the more flexible provisions of the management plan. Algeria, supported by Turkey, suggested working on the basis of Rec. 18-02 to ensure legal consistency. The Chair indicated that most plans have been submitted according to Rec. 18-02, instead of Rec. 17-07. Given its internal regulatory procedures, the EU indicated that it would manage its 2019 fishery in accordance with Rec. 17-07 up to June and subsequently the rules of 18-02 as soon as the Recommendation enters legally into force. For those CPCs managing their 2019 fishery in accordance with Rec. 18-02, it was agreed that implementation of required control measures must be ensured in plans submitted according to that recommendation.

Each CPC presented a summary of its tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan. A discussion of each CPC plan, corresponding modifications or amendments and tentative endorsement followed. All capacity, fisheries, farming, and inspection plans were endorsed during the session, except that of Syria, which the Panel decided to adopt through correspondence by the 31 March 2019, deadline subject to its revision.

A recurrent issue during the discussion of many plans was the criteria for extending the fishing season for purse seiners due to adverse weather conditions. The EU suggested during this discussion to apply the criteria of paragraph 21 of Rec. 08-05, which set wind speed level 5 on the Beaufort scale for some vessels and 4 for others. Libya, supported by Tunisia and Turkey, proposed using scale level 4, instead of 5, for all vessels. There was consensus to set level 4 for all vessels, if weather reports and VMS positions are provided, to prove that vessels had been inactive. The extension would be equivalent to the number of inactive days up to 10 maximum days. It was agreed that for joint fishing operations (JFO) evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels has to be proven.

The United States, supported by Japan and the EU, suggested a table of fishing seasons be created as well as the maximum number of fishing vessels for each CPC for the sake of transparency. Following this suggestion by the United States, the Secretariat drafted a table attached as **Appendix 3**.

### ***Albania***

Albania presented their plans on the basis of the template provided by ICCAT and Rec. 18-02. The capacity plan focusses on purse seiners, which is the fleet that has been allocated its quota. The fishing plan includes basically one purse seiner, which will fish for the season set by Rec. 18-02. Albania does not allow either by-catches of bluefin tuna or sport and recreational fisheries for bluefin tuna. All by-catches must be released alive. Albania has presented an inspection plan in ports that not only targets bluefin, but also other species, especially those that may be endangered.

Japan suggested amending the VMS polling and transmission rate to every one hour, instead of two, as required by Rec. 18-10. The EU noted that the purse seiner name is the same as in 2018, but the characteristics have changed. Norway and the EU indicated that a quota for by-catch must be established this year for all CPCs. The EU also asked for the clarification of the fishing season dates and the bad-weather clause (provision 30).

Albania adapted its plans to accommodate the concern about VMS. Albania explained that the purse seiner has been modified during the last year in a shipyard, so the information about the vessel has been updated in the plan. All vessels that may by-catch bluefin tuna fulfil the exceptions set by Rec. 18-02, fishing less than 1 mile from the coast and have less than 1 GT capacity. In case incidental catches are reported, Albania will deduct them from its quota.

The Chair, supported by some delegates, suggested setting aside for by-catch a minimum of 1 ton per CPC in the fishing plan.

The plan was endorsed after including the required amendments.

### ***Algeria***

Algeria's plan was drafted according to Rec. 18-02 and the national ministerial order for Bluefin tuna. New requirements have been set for their vessels, such as the compulsory IMO number. A by-catch quota of 9 tons has been set aside. The fishing season for purse seiners has been set from 26 May to 1 July. No authorizations are to be granted for sport and recreational BFT fishing. Algeria has increased its capacity, but the final number of vessels will not be decided before the end of April. Eight ports have been authorized for Algerian vessels.

The EU requested information on the effective start of operations of 4 farms, with a capacity of 1,800 t, envisaged by Algeria, as well as the monitoring and control measures adopted for this purpose. The EU also enquired as to what measures have been taken to implement the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection. The United States asked for consistency of the allocation of by-catch in the capacity table for all CPCs, discounting the by-catch from the CPC's quota and including it in the box for adjusted quota.

Algeria clarified that farm facilities will be operational in 2020. EU offers to Algeria the possibility of training Algerian inspectors regarding the use of stereoscopic cameras. As regards implementing the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection, Algeria noted that it is not able to provide a vessel due to lack of qualification of the inspectors who will participate in this mission, to ensure quality inspection. Algeria revised its fishing plan taking into account feedback from Panel 2 members so as to comply with ICCAT requirements on transmission frequency of VMS positions, and extension of the fishing period based on the criterion adopted by Panel 2 as well as correction of some typing errors, in particular the quota set aside for the directed fishery.

With the requested edits, the plan was endorsed by Panel 2.

### ***China***

China's plan was presented according to Rec. 18-02. China's capacity plan is based on a fleet of two longliners. 1 ton is allocated for by-catch and 44.5 tons to each longliner. China indicated that their observer coverage is much higher than the compulsory 20%.

The EU was interested in knowing where transshipment by Chinese vessels takes place. China indicated that all transshipments are made in authorized ICCAT ports. The EU asked China to specify the applicable area for the fishing season for longliners. The United States indicated that the new VMS provision (Rec. 18-10) requires that all longline vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA) as well as those greater than 15 meters (LOA) fishing outside the jurisdiction of a flag State, report their position every two hours.

It was agreed that the 1 ton for by-catch may be transferred to the authorized BFT longliners before their BFT fishing activities end for the season if it has not been fully utilized. China modified the plan in accordance with the concerns raised and the plan for China was endorsed by Panel 2.

### ***Egypt***

Egypt drafted its plans in accordance with Rec. 18-02. A new national decree has been passed for bluefin tuna fishing. Catch documentation has been reinforced in order to fully implement the relevant ICCAT provisions. The capacity plan is focused on purse seiners. The bluefin tuna season is set from 26 May to 1 July, but is expected to start by 15 May if a joint fishing operation takes place. Sport and recreational fisheries of bluefin tuna is not allowed. Under-sized bluefin tuna should be released and discounted from the quota. From a total quota of 266 tons, 2.66 tons is set aside for by-catch. A special scheme for inspection of vessels with by-catches is planned. All authorized vessels should report VMS at minimum 4 hour requirement. Two compulsory observers on board authorized vessels are required; one ROP and one national observer.

The EU asked Egypt to clarify if they intend to open the fishing season by 15 May and the criteria for triggering a possible extension in case of bad weather conditions. The Chair indicated that VMS frequency must be increased to 1 hour.

Egypt clarified that fishing season for purse seiners will start on 15 May and finish on 1 July and also revised its VMS requirement in accordance with comments received. Panel 2 endorsed the modified fishing, capacity and inspection plan.

### ***European Union***

Eight EU countries fish for bluefin tuna, mainly with purse seiners and traps, but also with other gears such as artisanal vessels. The plan is drafted in accordance with Rec. 17-07 until Rec. 18-02 enters into force. The extra 87 t quota for the EU is still to be allocated. Maximum input and maximum capacity has been set for farms. A comprehensive inspection plan has been drafted, with coordination of means by the European Fisheries Control Agency. Carry-over in farms is allowed. A new system for random controls and intra-farm transfers is also included.

Japan suggested that the EU should clarify the figures about farming capacity and quota to be caged. By-catch reserve in the EU should be specified in case it is allocated among Member States. Japan asked for further clarifications about carry-over controls and about how growth rates will be used by the EU during control activities. The United States requested clarification in the plan regarding VMS transmission frequencies applicable to each fleet. Norway indicated that recreational fisheries have not been assigned any quota in the capacity plan and asked the EU to clarify that.

The EU indicated that random controls will take place between 7 September and first caging next year, covering more than 5% of cages in each farm or 5% of the total fish recorded in the cages, with additional details to be decided by Member States. Regarding VMS, the EU will apply Rec. 18-10 when it enters into force (to be coherent with the implementation of Rec. 18-02 as from 21 June 2019). The EU indicated that there are no catch rates for recreational vessels provided by SCRS, so it cannot be recorded in the capacity plan. Regarding growth rates, the EU indicated that current growth rates will be used until SCRS publishes the new ones.

The Ocean Foundation was interested in the recording of the artisanal and recreational vessels of the EU. Other CPCs have not included those fleets in their respective plans. They consider that it is important that the SCRS develops capacity rates for all types of vessel. In this regard, Japan suggested that Panel 2 provide further guidance on the concept of catch rates, so that SCRS may work on it.

The EU plan was endorsed after making necessary clarifications.

***Iceland***

Iceland did not attend the intersessional meeting, so the Chair suggested sending the questions by correspondence. Japan and United States posed questions about the consistency of the fishing plan with the new VMS recommendation.

Iceland revised the VMS frequency in accordance with Rec. 18-10 and the plan was endorsed during the meeting.

***Japan***

Only longline vessels are included in the capacity plan. The Japanese fisheries agency implements the plan under the Fisheries Act. The Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has not yet decided how many vessels will be included in the fishing plan. They expect to increase the number of vessels to 35 or 36. Japan has allocated 10 metric tons for by-catch in 2018, but the figure has yet to be decided for 2019 depending on the final vessels to be included in the plan. The fishing season is in accordance with Rec. 18-02. Japan does not allow undersized bluefin tuna to be retained if it exceeds 6% of total catches. Under-sized bluefin tuna should be released and deducted from the Japanese quota. Transshipments are only allowed at designated ports. Japan confirmed that it will implement 20% observer coverage on its fleet. Individual quotas will be allocated per vessel, but this quota is different from the SCRS catch rate. Tags are allocated only to vessels targeting bluefin. By-catch is not likely by other fleets because the fishing ground for tropical tunas is very distant from that of BFT. Japan has additional measures to ensure compliance, namely that landing is prohibited at foreign ports and quota allocated is enough to make operations profitable.

The EU asked for some clarifications, such as a discrepancy of total quotas in the tables, as well as by-catch allocation and its implementation. Japan indicated that by-catch has been addressed by allocation for dead discards, but it was pointed out that allocation for by-catch should be separated.

Japan amended the requested issues and provided further clarifications, including the 10 tons quota set aside, specifying that 9 tons will be reserved for discarded bluefin tuna and 1 ton for other by-catches. The revised plan was endorsed by Panel 2.

***Korea***

The available quota to Korea includes transfers from China Taipei (50 tons), adding up to a total of 234 tons. The plan is focused on 4 longliners. Quota for by-catch is set at 0.5 tons. No by-catch is expected because of the fishing areas of the other fleet. Transshipment is only contemplated at designated ports. They include VMS reporting in accordance with Rec. 18-10. Observer coverage is planned to comply with the compulsory 20%. Their observers cooperate with the GBYP. There was a 100% observer coverage in 2018. In 2019, the minimum observers coverage of 20% is guaranteed.

The United States suggested that open fishing seasons and areas are clearly specified in the plan, as well as the VMS transmission rate and observer planning. The EU and the Chair requested the removal of references to the 2020 fishing season, which approval was not the objective of this meeting. Korea accepted the suggestions and revised the text accordingly. The revised plan was endorsed by Panel 2.

***Libya***

No longliners or recreational vessels are contemplated in the Libyan plan. Their quota is allocated to purse seiners and 16 tons are set aside for by-catch, which represents 1% of its quota. Libya indicated that the initial fishing season had to be amended to reflect that some vessels fish in the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the possibility of extending the fishing season. Transshipments are only allowed in designated ports. VMS reporting is required at a 1 hour frequency. Libya has no traps or farming activity. The plan includes national legislation that implements Rec. 18-02. Libya does not participate in the Joint International Inspection scheme.

The EU raised questions about the national legislation regarding fishing season included in the plan, which dates back to 2013 and has not been updated to include Rec. 18-02. The rationale for shifting activity toward the Eastern Mediterranean should be included. Libya indicated that the 2013 decree was amended by a regulation in December 2018. The fishing towards the East is a decision of the vessel owner.

The plan was endorsed following the inclusion of the requested amendments.

### ***Morocco***

The Moroccan quota was distributed among traps, purse seiners and other vessels. 342 tons were allocated to the category which includes other artisanal and small-scale coastal vessels. Bluefin tuna purse seine fishing will be carried out by two purse seiners:

- One purse seiner will operate in the eastern Mediterranean within the framework of a joint fishing operation from 15 May to 1 July 2019.
- Another purse seiner will fish for bluefin tuna in the fishing grounds of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, within the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco, from 1 May to 15 June.

Recreational and sport fishing for bluefin is not allowed in Morocco. Morocco will comply with fishing season, observer coverage and minimum size set by Rec. 18-02 amending Recommendation 17-07.

Japan raised questions about the by-catches allocated to small-scale coastal vessels and artisanal boats using longline and hand line, and their fishing season, as well as the way to ensure that fishing opportunities are commensurate with SCRS catch rates in the capacity plan. Japan questioned the rationale of setting a fishing season for by-catch. The EU considered that there must be consistency of fishing seasons with Rec. 18-02. The EU indicated that allocation of quota for small-scale vessels may be seasonally adjusted, but this is not applicable to other modalities. The EU required some clarifications regarding the association of authorised traps and vessels to authorised farms, and an initial farming capacity plan, including input and total farming capacity. The EU also indicated that observer activity in farms is included in the ROP, not the national observer program. Turkey suggested aligning the open purse seine season with the joint fishing operation envisaged between Turkish vessels and a Moroccan vessel. The United States requested the adjustment of the quota after allocating for by-catch.

Morocco indicated that their coastal vessels and artisanal boats using longline and hand line included in the artisanal category are small-scale, i.e. less than 7 meters in length. The final farming capacity will be provided before 1 June. The growth rate in farms used by Morocco comply with the ICCAT provisions in place. Morocco indicated 2,606 tons as provisional input capacity for farms in 2019.

Clarifications were made to the initial plan in order to accommodate the concerns expressed. and the plan was formally endorsed by Panel 2.

### ***Norway***

Norway provided a revised version of its initial document. From a total quota of 239 tons, most quota will be allocated to longliners and purse-seiners. 27 tons is set aside for by-catch. 1 ton is also set aside for sport and recreational vessels that practice catch and release in close cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. They plan to include 4 longliners and 4 purse seiners, but the final number was still pending decision. Modifications of the fishing plan will be sent in due time to ICCAT Secretariat. All by-catch should be reported to the Norway Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC). Purse seiners will be required to report catches on a daily basis, even if catches are zero. Fishing seasons will be set according to Rec. 18-02. All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna will be landed and deducted from the quota. They will include VMS reporting frequency in line with the applicable recommendation (1 hour for purse seine vessels and two hours for longline vessels).

The plan was endorsed after including the requested amendments.

### ***Syria***

This CPC did not attend the intersessional meeting, but submitted the plan.

Japan asked to align VMS frequency of purse seiners according to the new recommendation (18-10), as well as references to domestic provisions that make transshipment not applicable. The Chair suggested including at least 1 ton for by-catch and amending the table accordingly. Another required amendment is

eliminating references to the 2020 season. The United States requested clarification of deducting discards of dead fish from the quota. The EU spotted some references to Rec. 14-04, which may need to be changed to Rec. 18-02.

The Secretariat transmitted these remarks to Syria, so that the corresponding plan may be amended accordingly. As the Syrian response was not received in time, it was agreed that the Panel would need to consider endorsement of Syria's plan by correspondence before the 31 March 2019, deadline.

### ***Tunisia***

The plan was presented according to Recommendation 18-02 and national law. It sets aside 1% of its quota for by-catch. The fishing season for purse-seiners starts from 26 May until 1 July and will be extended if needed, in accordance with the agreed interpretation of the bad weather clause. A maximum of 5% by-catch under minimum size is allowed. Discard is deducted from quota. Transshipment is only permitted at designated ports and after proper authorization. VMS positions will be sent every hour for purse seiners and every two hours for others, according to Rec. 18-10. A national observer plan is set for towing vessels, whereas the Regional Observer Program is applicable for purse seiners, transfers, and farming facilities. The capacity has been adjusted according to the limits, leaving 330 tons of under capacity. 2,400 tons of farming capacity was distributed to 6 farming companies. Carry-over will be authorized with additional control measures. Access to foreign vessels to Tunisian ports will be authorized by relevant authorities. Tunisia ensures the observer coverage set by Rec. 18-02 for all fleets. Control operations are planned for at least 10% of caging operations. Tunisia actively participates in the Joint International Inspection scheme.

The EU requested that the amount of by-catch allocation rather than 1% should be specified in the table. The EU also requested an indication of input capacity and total farming capacity for each farm, as well as the confirmation of the number of registered farms. Japan asked for further explanations to ensure proper control of carry-over in farms, including the possibility of separating cages for each season's fish. Japan raised concerns over the origin of the increase in the number of purse seiners in recent years, asking if there are new vessels or only vessels that have not operated during the recovery plan.

Tunisia provided extensive explanations about the required issues. Carry-over fish will be maintained in separate cages. The EU required that Tunisia send the figures of farming capacity per farm before 1 June. On that day, Tunisia provided the required data which were published as Tunisia's eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan. The plan with necessary amendments was endorsed.

### ***Turkey***

The purse seiner fishing season is set from 15 May to 1 July. In case it is necessary, extension will be required for bad weather. 90% of the quota has been distributed among purse seiners. This quota has been assigned on an individual basis. 10% of quota has been assigned to artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fishing as well as incidental and by-catches, 50 t of which was allocated to by-catch. The rest must be discarded and deducted from the quota. Sport and recreational vessels cannot market bluefin tuna. Transshipment is allowed only at designated ports. VMS reporting shall start 5 days before the fishing activity and end 5 days after it and be in line with the provisions of Rec. 18-10. Observers will be dispatched according to relevant provisions of Rec. 18-02. A total input of 2,338 t of live fish is included in the farming capacity plan, including imports. Carry-over in farms is authorized, with a reinforced system of control. Random inspections will be carried out before and after fishing season in ports. 100% of caging operations will be covered with stereoscopic cameras. Turkey will participate in the Joint International Inspection Scheme providing extensive human and material means.

Norway asked for the final figure allocated exclusively for by-catch. The EU suggested separating the input capacity from the total farm capacity in the farm plan. The United States indicated that the section on minimum size is not in line with Rec. 18-02, which sets that discarded bluefin tuna should be deducted from the quota.

Turkey submitted a revised version of the fishing plan on the basis of these comments, which was endorsed by Panel 2.

**Chinese Taipei**

Chinese Taipei submitted a fishing plan, but this CPC indicated it is not going to fish for bluefin tuna in 2019.

The EU indicated that, despite Chinese Taipei not targeting bluefin tuna, a quota should be allocated for by-catch. The Secretariat communicated this request to Chinese Taipei, which accepted. The revised plan was endorsed by Panel 2.

**5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4**

All plans were endorsed by Panel 2 during the meeting, except that of Syria. Panel 2 decided to consider endorsement of Syria's plan through correspondence subject to its revision and further circulation to CPCs by e-mail.

The plans are included in **Appendix 4**.

**6. Clarification of provisions of Rec. 18-02**

Two documents were provided under this agenda item. The *Requested clarifications for recommendation 18-02 from the ROP-BFT implementing consortium* included requested clarifications for Rec. 18-02 from the ROP-BFT consortium. This document was not discussed during the session, following a suggestion that they be part of the discussions of an informal meeting with the Consortium to be held in 5 April 2019. In addition, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures may consider the issues raised in this document, as appropriate.

Panel 2 discussed *Requests for clarification on 18-02 from CPCs and Secretariat (Appendix 5)*. Several CPCs had already provided comments on these questions. During the session, the Chair provided tentative conclusions for each question that were adopted or further elaborated by Panel 2.

The Secretariat was requested to revise the table with the clarifications provided by Panel 2 and distribute it before the meeting with Consortium.

*Paragraph 8.* The question was related to carry-over and traceability of bluefin tuna. The Chair indicated that the farming capacity plan should include ensuring legality of traceability of carry-over. The EU indicated that the e-BCD Technical Working Group (TWG) should discuss this issue at a technical level. Panel 2 agreed to refer the question to the e-BCD TWG.

*Paragraph 9.* Panel 2 repeated the reply that was provided for paragraph 8. Tunisia raised questions about the ability of the current version of e-BCD to record the information required by paragraphs 8 and 9. The Chair indicated that the e-BCD TWG will discuss a solution before the fishing season starts. If no solution is reached or can be developed in time, one solution may be to use an existing field in eBCD to provide an explanation. The Panel also considered that any concerns may need to be worked out between the trading partners if the needed eBCD developments are not ready for use in 2019.

*Paragraph 29.* Libya asked for the applicable fishing dates for JFOs with some vessels that fish in the eastern Mediterranean. Libya specified that this question was related to caging operations of Libyan vessels that sell fish to Turkish farms. The Chair indicated that Libya may be allowed to fish in the eastern Mediterranean in the framework of its fishing plan. The EU indicated that the boundaries in the eastern Mediterranean are clear, and that allowing vessels originated outside the eastern Mediterranean was not the intention when the recommendation was drafted. Furthermore, allowing vessels from non-coastal CPCs to enjoy derogations to the general rules not designed for them may lead to an increase in fishing effort, so this early period may only be requested by coastal States in that area. On that basis, the EU proposed to set only one period for JFOs. The Chair indicated that each JFO should include a period and an area. Libya committed not to carry out JFO in different areas. All fishing vessels in the same JFO shall operate fishing as a group in accordance with paragraph 29 in accordance with time and area.

*Paragraph 30.* Panel 2 agreed that it was the decision of each CPC to extend the fishing season due to adverse weather conditions. This extension will follow the agreed approach so that it will be implemented consistently by all CPCs. Japan asked for the proper communication of the justification for any extensions. A protocol of communications to this effect (how, when, to whom, which format to be used) was not discussed.

*Paragraph 42.* With regard to the provision of data on catches from sport and recreational fisheries, the Chair indicated that amendments should be made to Rec. 18-02, so the deadline is changed from 1 July to 31 July. Panel 2 agreed that the Commission shall consider the corresponding erratum in November.

*Paragraph 45.* Regarding tag and release in sport and recreational fisheries, Panel 2 endorsed the EU response. Under the GBYP program 20 tons have been foreseen for this activity, which fits this purpose if the SCRS procedure is followed. Norway indicated that it would be a good practice that CPCs specify tag and release activity, including allocation of quota, in their fishing plans, so that it is easier to control the fishing mortality when deducted from the national quota.

*Paragraph 46.* Lists of sport and recreational vessels. The Chair indicated that there is confusion about this provision. If the Commission requests this list, the Secretariat must request the CPC concerned to provide the list that is based on the information submitted by CPCs that authorize vessels in the framework of paragraph 45. The EU indicated that the request of the list must be properly justified with a clear need, since sport and recreational vessels are not included neither in some CPCs fleet register nor in the ICCAT list of commercial vessels. Furthermore, it is not infrequent that authorisations are issued for a very limited period (one day, one week, ...). This interpretation was endorsed by Panel 2.

*Paragraph 50.* The list of catching vessels should be submitted 15 days before the activity starts, but the provision does not set a date for submitting other fishing vessels. The EU representative clarified that it was an involuntary deletion when the text was drafted and suggested to follow the same procedure that it is now defined in Rec. 17-07. The Chair suggested that next time that Rec. 18-02 is amended, this point should be clarified. The Secretariat suggested that CPCs continue to apply a 15 day deadline for 2019 on a voluntary basis, which was endorsed by Panel 2.

*Paragraph 51.* Libya posed two questions on this provision. Panel 2 indicated that paragraph 50 also apply to fishing vessels that are not catching vessels. Panel 2 also confirmed that when a purse seiner exhausts its quota, it can operate doing other activities if the vessel is properly registered before that activities start. The EU indicated that if a vessel changes activity, no gear or setting equipment should be carried to prevent possible fishing activities of that vessel. Panel 2 agreed to allow other activities if the 15 day rule is fulfilled in order to change modality and the fishing authorization is revoked.

*Paragraph 65.* Norway asked about the obligation of reporting of catches in case that the vessel is in port. The EU specified that it is required for JFOs. Panel 2 concluded that as a general rule it is not compulsory to make daily catch reports if the vessel is at port, but each modality should comply with their specific information requirements according to Rec. 18-02.

*Paragraph 74.* The suggestion of the Secretariat was agreed by Panel 2 regarding this question. The Secretariat will continue to publish the corresponding catch statistics on a secured website.

*Paragraph 77.* Libya asked if transfers of dead bluefin tuna among vessels of the same JFO is considered as an at sea transshipment. Panel 2 agreed to that such an act would be considered an at sea transshipment. Dead fish must be retained by the catching vessel and landed or transhipped at designated ports.

*Paragraph 84 and Annex 6, Paragraphs 5 and 6.* There are some contradictions in those provisions among nationality and languages of the observers. Following the suggestion of the Chair, Panel 2 agreed that the priority should be given to the difference in nationality first and language skill as a second requirement. If it is not possible to find foreign observers with proper language skills, observers of the same nationality may be allowed. For the EU the most important thing is the independence of the observers. The EU suggested amending paragraph 84, indicating that the observer should not be of the same nationality while satisfying language used in vessels, traps and related facilities. For Turkey the knowledge of the language is key. The Secretariat indicated that Turkey is very particular, since it is not easy to find Turkish speaking observers from foreign countries, because even if they inhabit other countries usually they keep the Turkish nationality.

*Paragraph 92.* Turkey asked for clarifications about several observer requirements in different farming and purse seiner associated activities. Amendments to ensure solid investigation is needed. After fishing operations, the ROP observer is over and towing vessels use national observers. Turkey explained that one voluntary transfer has to be done with ROPs observers whereas control transfer operations are done with CPC observers, otherwise the purse seiner would disrupt its operations. The transfer of bluefin tuna to the towing vessel is done under ROP and if it is not agreed, the ROP observer issues a PNC. It was agreed that for the second transfer under the CPC national observer the video should be provided to the ROP. Panel 2 agreed to stick to paragraph 92, but the video shall be provided to the ROP observer even in control transfers through the Consortium at some time. This important issue may be dealt with in the framework of the revision of Rec. 18-02.

*Paragraph 92 (continued).* Bis. Turkey highlighted a sentence that required an editorial amendment. This amendment was agreed.

*Paragraph 99.* The question related to the communication of results of stereoscopic cameras to the catching CPC. Japan considers the results should be provided to ROP observers, but in practice the ROP observer may not still be there. The Chair considered that the ROP observer should be provided the opportunity to see the video, if needed. Japan indicated that it may be useful to discuss this issue within the EU proposed Working Group on BFT monitoring and control measures if such a group is created by the Commission. The Secretariat agreed with the interpretation of the Chair. Following the proposal made by the EU, Panel 2 agreed that the results should be sent to the Consortium with time flexibility. Amendments of the wording of paragraph 99 may be considered in the future.

*Paragraph 102.* This provision refers to the obligation of sending caging reports. Panel 2 agreed that both caging reports and caging declarations are required to be sent. The EU also indicated that this issue could be clarified in a future revision of Rec. 18-02.

*Annex 6, paragraph 2.* The Secretariat asked for guidance on how to appoint observers for purse seiners before it is known which vessels will be operating. Panel 2 agreed that CPCs should submit the information of the vessels as soon as possible, so the number of observers can be determined on time. The Secretariat indicated that the Consortium needed information such as languages and countries. The EU indicated that a breakdown by EU member countries would be provided as soon as possible.

*Annex 11.* Libya raised the question on how to proceed when bluefin tuna is dead in purse seiner operations supplying farms and how to fill in eBCD when the fish is dead. The eBCD has a functionality to allow for this, and Panel 2 agreed to refer this technical issue to the eBCD TWG for additional consideration as needed. Libya indicated that the option of transferring dead fish to another vessel implies an at sea transshipment, which is not allowed at present. The EU is not in favour of introducing exceptions to the transshipment regulations. The EU and Chair suggested that that kind of problem may be formally tabled and discussed by Panel 2 at the forthcoming Commission meeting. Panel 2 took note of the practical problem raised by Libya.

Japan presented a *Request for clarification to farm CPCs regarding traceability of live bluefin tuna in a cage paper* outlining that Japan had received some e-BCDs that show different catches with different e-BCD numbers that are caged in the same cage. Japan noted that the grouped eBCD function does not apply in this case but that consideration should be given to improving eBCD to enhance traceability of such fish since there is currently no way of knowing which fish is associated with which eBCD at the time of harvest. This situation led to inconsistencies about sizes of catches at harvest that required further explanations. Panel 2 noted the request by Japan, as well as the information submitted by Turkey in response, and recognized the need for further discussion through the e-BCD TWG and possibly in PWG.

## **7. Requirements and procedures for the submission of data and information collected under CPC observer programs (Rec. 18-02, para 83)**

This point was presented by the ICCAT Secretariat. This requirement was included in previous recommendations, but the Commission had not determined procedures or formats and each CPC sent its own observer reports or information in a variety of formats. Some CPCs did not send the reports. The preference of the ICCAT Secretariat is for the use of current statistical forms for every CPC.

Panel 2 agreed to use ST09 and ST11 formats for recording minimum information on by-catches in national observer reports. Other information, such as catch, size and biological data can be transmitted through the regular ICCAT data reporting processes, and through national scientist input at SCRS meetings.

## **8. Other matters**

The Secretariat circulated the list of potential non compliance issues (PNCs) currently being reported through the Regional Observer Programme. It was agreed to defer discussion on these to the informal meeting with the Consortium in April, but that CPCs could forward comments in writing to the Secretariat before 20 March. In addition, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures may consider this matter, as appropriate.

### ***Review of best catch rates***

The Chair of SCRS indicated that a preliminary discussion on this issue had taken place at SCRS. It is possible to update the catch rates according to the available data, but more guidance must be provided as input for the SCRS.

The EU indicated that the data set is incomplete, and that variability existed, suggesting to consider geographical parameters for catch rates, as well as the number of sets per vessel, vessel length, JFOs and fishing seasons. According to the EU, the main goal is to avoid overfishing, but current rates seem to be rather low. Japan stressed the need to narrow the scope for the definition of catch rate.

The SCRS Chair doubted that the catch information would provide such level of detail suggested by the EU. A preliminary report will be presented to the Commission in November with clear explanation on the calculations, so Panel 2 can decide on how to use or modify them. If necessary, further guidance can be provided to the SCRS at this time.

Panel 2 took note of this tentative SCRS plan and the discussion foreseen in November.

### ***Proposal by the EU of terms of reference to convene an ICCAT Working Group on bluefin tuna control and monitoring measures***

The EU indicated that Rec. 18-02 included references to set further measures to ensure that traceability and control measures are effective. The EU proposed setting up a working group on bluefin control and monitoring measures under Panel 2. This group would hold at least one meeting before the Commission meeting in November. Participants should be nominated by 29 March.

Japan expressed interest in providing an expert for the working group and asked about the expected type of output that will be provided by the group, such as a possible modification of Rec. 18-02. Japan suggested designating a contact point instead of participants before 29 March.

The Chair raised concerns about procedural issues and possible implications of Secretariat resources, which implied that a decision to adopt terms of reference for the proposed group must be addressed by the Commission. Panel 2 agreed with the view of the Chair. China and the United States asked for clarification on the scope of the working group, in particular if it was limited to considering monitoring and control matters related to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery.

PEW and WWF welcomed the proposal by the EU and showed interest in being part of the group as observers.

The EU noted its intent to modify the paragraph that sets various deadlines. The scope is eastern bluefin tuna, but the working group may discuss other measures beyond Rec. 18-02. The goal is to identify problems to be addressed and options to tackle them.

To progress this matter before the November Commission meeting, the Chair suggested the EU invite interested parties to an informal meeting to discuss the terms of reference and identify relevant issues. The EU may decide to include observers in any informal group. Should the Commission adopt a proposal to create a working group on bluefin tuna monitoring and control at its November annual meeting, intersessional meetings for this Group could then be held in 2020 (**Appendix 6 - not adopted**).

### ***Reciprocal exchange of inspectors for random controls***

The EU wanted to discuss among CPCs the practice of reciprocal exchange of inspectors for random controls for farming. The EU has experiences that show it has deterrent effects. Random controls are made on the basis of risk analysis. The exchange of inspectors ensures transparency and equality. The idea is to open the participation of foreign inspector that may be interested, but on a reciprocal basis to ensure level playing field for CPCs with farming facilities. The EU specified that the professionals would act as observers, not inspectors.

Tunisia indicated that foreign inspectors are not allowed in their facilities according to its internal legislation. Turkey was not able to decide during the session and was open to discuss this issue bilaterally with the EU.

Farming CPCs were not ready to agree to the reciprocal exchange during the session, so this proposal may be further discussed during the year and at the Commission meeting.

### ***Information on the use of growth rates by Japan***

Japan informed Panel 2 members that for its imports Japan has used 120% of the growth rates provided by the SCRS in 2009 as a benchmark for dialogue, so if growth was more than 20% of these figures, Japan asked concerned CPCs for further clarifications. For the 2019 fishing season, Japan will use a 110% benchmark, if more than 10% difference is detected through e-BCD, Japan will require further clarifications.

The EU suggested that this issue be discussed in the framework of PWG and eBCD TWG. It was also noted with concern that the SCRS had not been able to provide updated growth rates for bluefin tuna in farms despite years of requirements that farming CPCs provide data to allow SCRS to make these calculations. Panel 2 agreed that this was an urgent matter and all efforts should be made by CPCs to carry out existing responsibilities to support SCRS in its work.

## **PART 2: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING PANEL 2 ON BFT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE)**

### **1. Opening of Part 2 of the Meeting**

Part 2 of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan). Part 2 discussed issues related to BFT Management Strategy evaluation (MSE), including the identification of initial operational management objectives.

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur for Part 2**

Ms. Rachel O'Malley (United States) was appointed as rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements for Part 2**

The agenda was adopted without change.

#### **4. MSE for bluefin tuna – general considerations and review of outcomes of the intersessional meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group**

Dr. John Walter, Chair of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Species group, gave a general presentation describing the MSE process. Panel 2 members were referred to the ICCAT BFT MSE quick reference (**Appendix 7**), which provides key definitions and describes the steps involved in the development of management procedures (MPs). It was recalled that ICCAT committed to this approach in Rec. 15-07 and developed a roadmap in 2016 to guide the progress of its work. Work on the BFT MSE has progressed more slowly than was anticipated in the original road map adopted by the Commission mainly due to source code errors that are currently being fixed.

Dr. Walter explained that the SCRS has predominately been developing empirical management procedures for the BFT MSE, with only a few model-based approaches of the type that was used in the MSE for North Atlantic albacore. Empirical MPs use empirical proxies of biomass, such as indices of abundance. The logic underpinning this approach is that, in principle, it is relatively simple to implement: as the indices increase, the TAC increases; as the indices decrease, the TAC decreases. Despite some model-based MPs having been developed, age- or length-structured models (like the Virtual Population Analysis [VPA]) used in the last stock assessment) are not feasible at this time, although exploration to implement a surplus production model is already undergoing for possible use within the current MSE.

Dr. Gary Melvin, SCRS Chair, summarized outcomes of the BFT MSE Technical Group meeting (7-9 February 2019) and the BFT Species Group Meeting (11-15 February 2019). Participants in those meetings reviewed the MSE work completed since September 2018 by the BFT MSE Technical Group, initially focusing on the plausibility of operating models (OMs) and evaluating progress toward the development of candidate MPs. At these meetings the SCRS identified issues with the input data, including issues related to electronic tagging data, microchemistry, and genetics, and scientists are working to address potential sources of bias. Coding errors were also noted and have been or are being addressed. Prior analyses are being corrected and updated as these issues are identified.

Other issues discussed at the February 2019 SCRS meetings included historical biomass; assignment of fish to certain strata based on stock of origin data; and, movement exclusions (i.e., no fish expected in certain areas during certain quarters of the year). The BFT Species Group developed a list of sensitivity runs to identify sources of data conflict within the models and to evaluate sensitivity to model parameter assumptions. As not all sensitivity runs could be completed during the meeting due to time constraints, further analysis is required.

The BFT MSE, in its current form, is not able to evaluate the status quo management strategy of F0.1, which is used as the basis of Recs. 17-06 and 18-02. Currently, the BFT MSE takes into account these main uncertainties: future recruitment (3 scenarios); mixing (2 scenarios); and natural mortality/maturity (2 scenarios). Current specifications for the OMs include: two spawning areas (Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean); seven spatial areas; and, a two-stock mixing model, western stock and eastern stock. The indices currently used in the MSE include 14 CPUE indices and 5 fishery independent indices. A CPC asked how the SCRS will make decisions about the combination and weighting of various indices, and emphasized the importance of transparency so that these decisions are well understood. Dr. Walter noted that changes to OMs and candidate MPs are described in the Trial Specification Document, a living document that will be updated as needed by the SCRS to reflect the current status of the MSE.

Dr. Melvin explained that the initial tuning process for the BFT MSE, with a view of an initial comparison among possible candidate management procedures (CMPs), is based on a single OM. During the second round of tuning, other potential OMs will be evaluated and the SCRS will attempt to obtain good performance across all OMs in the reference set for the identified suite of management objectives. This reference set will cover broad ranges of plausible stock status and productivity. The SCRS will present the results of the simulation testing of candidate MPs, highlighting the tradeoffs associated with each MP's performance. Based on this information, the Commission will be able to select an MP that performs well across multiple performance metrics in order to meet its identified management objectives.

## 5. Consideration of initial operational management objectives for BFT MSE

The Panel 2 Chair stressed that decisions in an MSE process are provisional and if CPCs do not like the results of simulations, they can go back to earlier stages of the process and restart with different parameters. CPCs agreed to consider Res. 18-03 as a starting point for discussion of possible operational management objectives. The SCRS Chair agreed with the Panel 2 Chair and explained that any values identified by Panel 2 will be applied on an interim basis for purposes of testing candidate management procedures (CMPs). These are exploratory approaches that can be refined after the Commission receives the outputs of the MSE from the SCRS. It was also noted that standard practice is to have regular reviews of the management procedures and the management objectives.

Dr. Melvin encouraged Panel 2 not to focus on a specific value at this stage, as a range of values can provide more flexibility to identify a candidate MP that best meets the objectives. Panel 2 agreed to start gradually by identifying a range of figures for the initial operational management objectives.

It was noted that objectives relating to Status and Safety apply to each of the two biological *stocks* (the western stock and the eastern stock), while objectives relating to Yield and Stability would apply to the respective western and eastern Atlantic management *areas*. The general understanding is that the MSE will treat each stock separately but have a common approach.

It was also noted that probabilities should be understood in the context of associated timeframes. For example, the probability of the stock being overfished in the *final* year is different than the probability on average throughout the timeframe. Also, when dealing with multiple operating models, the SCRS will need to determine whether to select the probability associated with what they consider to be the best model, or to apply a weighted average under the different models. Given the complexity of these issues, the SCRS may present results to the Commission in a variety of ways and provide the necessary context.

### 5.1 Stock Status

The Panel 2 Chair asked CPCs to consider the probability – or probabilities – of the stock occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, along with a timeframe or timeframes for the evaluation period. There was general agreement that the probability to be tested for being in the green zone of the Kobe plot should be 60% or greater. Depending on the outcomes of testing the candidate management procedures, the SCRS may show a range of outcomes to include probabilities above and below 60%.

There was consensus on 30 years as a useful timeframe over which to evaluate Status, given stock dynamics; the SCRS was requested to provide information on Status for specified intervals within the 30 years as determined to be appropriate in the Trial Specification Document. Some CPCs expressed a preference for evaluating the stock status at the *end* of the 30 year timeframe, while others preferred evaluation over the duration of the 30 years.

There was general agreement that SCRS should be asked to show different ways of looking at the probabilities of being in the green zone across the operating models in individual years, across years and at the terminal year (i.e., 30 years). It was suggested that there should be a management objective or performance indicator to show Status during the 30-year period, but the Commission needs advice from SCRS to show how to reflect this. This output could be provided in the form of trajectories to be evaluated by the Commission.

Dr. Melvin confirmed that the simulation outputs will allow the Commission to see a picture of stock status at the end of the selected timeframe, as well as at intermediate intervals throughout.

Several CPCs supported the identification of operational management objectives that will work for any quadrant (i.e., to maintain the stock in the green zone, or return the stock to the green zone if necessary). It was recognized that different OMs may provide different answers about the current status of the stock; some may show the stock in the green zone, while some may show the stock in the red zone. The SCRS will consider ways to present the results of simulation testing so that managers can evaluate this information.

Dr. Melvin noted that the SCRS intends to include an option where catch is reduced to zero within the candidate MPs, which will illustrate the bounds on the extent to which the Status and Safety management objectives can be achieved under the most extreme case of closing the fishery.

An observer from the Ocean Foundation noted that a generation time for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna is shorter than for western Atlantic bluefin, and suggested that this be taken into account when determining timeframes (in particular, those related to rebuilding).

## 5.2 Safety

It was noted that a  $B_{lim}$  has not yet been determined for bluefin tuna. Rec. 15-07 defines  $B_{lim}$  as “a conservation reference point based on a level of biomass that should be avoided considering that beyond such limits, the sustainability of the stock may be in danger.”

There was general agreement among managers that the conceptual management objective is a very low probability of serious harm to the stock. Different views were expressed about how to quantify this risk; some CPCs noted that it is difficult to quantify an acceptable probability when a limit reference point has not yet been defined.

CPCs agreed that it would be useful to see a range of probabilities. SCRS scientists noted that the probabilities associated with falling below any particular interim value of  $B_{lim}$  could be provided.

Managers would like to be informed by the performance of a range of candidate management procedures, but, ultimately, they desire a very low risk of irreversible harm to the stock.

There was general agreement that the SCRS should advise on a  $B_{lim}$ , given its biological basis.  $B_{lim}$  has been established at  $0.4B_{MSY}$  for North Atlantic swordfish and North Atlantic albacore, which may or may not be appropriate for bluefin tuna. This could be considered in terms of a  $B_{MSY}$  or in terms of  $B_0$ ; the SCRS could test both ways and consider the results.

One CPC suggested that an important metric to consider for Safety is the highest risk in any single year that  $B < B_{lim}$  (i.e., the highest probability during the 30-year period that  $B < B_{lim}$ ). This concept is covered in one of the current performance metrics called “Lowest depletion” (Row 10).

Several CPCs supported a Safety objective of 5% risk of breaching  $B_{lim}$ , while others suggested that 20% might be acceptable, depending on where the  $B_{lim}$  is set. One CPC pointed out that it is sometimes difficult to identify the level that will cause irreversible harm to the stock. If a limit reference point is set at a point higher than the level of irreversible harm, a higher probability may be appropriate to consider. However, if the limit reference point is set at a potentially dangerous level, several CPCs expressed a preference for a very low percentage (5% or no more than 10%) that represents a precautionary approach. Following an extensive discussion, two options were remaining: 0 - 15% or 5 - 15%. The Panel 2 Chair asked scientists whether there would be any difference of workload and the answer was that there would not be. Accordingly, the meeting agreed on a range of 0-15% for testing purposes, pending a recommendation from the SCRS on the appropriate level of  $B_{lim}$ . The Commission will be better informed to select a desired probability when  $B_{lim}$  has been identified.

## 5.3 Yield

Panel 2 discussed the merits of a range of operational management objectives related to maximizing mean catch levels (i.e., yield) over the short-term, medium-term and long-term. It was recognized that the SCRS needs guidance on the range of years to be used for calculating each of these general timeframes.

Dr. Walter clarified that the MSE is designed to look separately at maximizing catch in the east and maximizing catch in the west, although managers can consider these outputs in tandem. While the management implications of mixing remain unquantified, scientific evidence based on genetics, electronic tagging and otolith microchemistry, illustrates that mixing does occur. Dr. Melvin emphasized that east-west interchange of bluefin has implications for both stocks, and that a TAC set for the eastern area may impact the western population and vice versa.

Specific ranges of years corresponding to short-term, medium-term and long-term catch were considered for the table of performance indicators to guide the SCRS in its refinement of the MSE.

#### **5.4 Stability**

Following a discussion of different possible figures, there was agreement to request that the SCRS look at a broad range of limits on the percentage change in TAC between management periods, and also look at scenarios with no limitation on the change in TAC. It was also acknowledged that the Commission should retain the ability to reduce the TAC by more than the identified maximum amount if it is necessary to respond to a rapidly declining stock. This could be tested through the MSE and/or accounted for in the candidate MPs.

Another CPC suggested that the SCRS should test the MSE with a minimum threshold below which a TAC change would not take effect. The threshold would be determined separately for each stock. This approach would allow the Commission to avoid having to adjust the TAC for what might be only an insignificant increase or decrease between management periods.

It was noted that the current management period for BFT is three years for both western and eastern Atlantic management units. There was no proposal to change this; thus, a management period of three years may be assumed for purposes of testing.

### **5. (Continued) Initial Operational Management Objectives**

In summarizing these discussions relating to Status, Safety, Yield and Stability, the Chair recalled that additional specificity in the initial operational management objectives will help guide the SCRS as scientists continue to develop and refine the BFT MSE. The SCRS Chair reminded Panel 2 that individual management objectives will not be considered in isolation; the outputs of testing different candidate MPs will demonstrate performance relative to multiple objectives. Ultimately, it is the Commission's role to decide on acceptable levels of risk.

Panel 2 agreed to provide the following guidance on initial operational management objectives, which will be tested and will, in turn, inform further development of management objectives.

#### ***Status (of biological stock, East and West)***

- There should be a 60% or greater probability of being in the green zone of the Kobe plot.
- The SCRS will present results of the simulation in plots with a trajectory so that managers can evaluate the status of the stock (F relative to  $F_{MSY}$  and B relative to  $B_{MSY}$ ) at intermediate points between zero and 30 years, and at the end of the 30-year period.

#### ***Safety (of biological stock, east and west)***

- There should be no more than a 15% chance of the stock falling below  $B_{LIM}$  at any point during the 30 year evaluation period.
- A definition of  $B_{LIM}$  should be recommended by SCRS.

#### ***Yield (of catch by area, east and west)***

- Evaluate outcomes related to maximizing mean catch levels with respect to each management area over the short, medium, and long-term.

#### ***Stability (of catch by area, east and west)***

- Evaluate outcomes of 20%, 30%, and 40% as well as no limitation on the change in TAC between management periods.

Dr. Walter presented the current set of BFT performance statistics (indicators) and posed a number of questions to Panel 2 relating to appropriate ranges of probabilities and timeframes. It was agreed that none of the performance indicators should be eliminated at this stage. These indicators may be modified after further testing. On the basis of all its previous discussions, Panel 2 agreed on several adjustments to the current set of performance indicators, as well as several new indicators (**Appendix 8**).

## **6. Consideration of next steps and timeframes**

It was recognized that the BFT Species Group and BFT MSE Technical Group have made substantial progress in developing OMs. At the same time, there was general agreement that the process should not be rushed to meet current deadlines and that the SCRS should revise its work plan as needed. The SCRS is now considering two options for providing 2021 TAC advice: (Option A) to continue with the MSE development process as outlined in the roadmap; (Option B) to begin planning for a 2020 stock assessment. Panel 2 took note of the revised plans of the SCRS. There was general agreement that Option A is preferred, but that the SCRS should take the necessary time to ensure that the technical issues are addressed in a thorough and satisfactory way.

In order for the Commission to adopt an MP in November 2020 as the basis for 2021 TAC advice, the SCRS would need to present initial results on the performance of the candidate MPs in 2019. This is essential so that managers can get a sense of the tradeoffs well before the selection of an MP from among the candidate MPs while being reassured on the soundness of the MSE framework under development. A meeting of the BFT MSE Technical Group meeting will take place in July 2019 to review the OM conditioning. If the OMs meet acceptability criteria, they will be forwarded to the September BFT Species Group, where the SCRS will make a decision to either proceed with the roadmap or to begin planning and preparing for a stock assessment. However, if development of the MSE has not progressed to the satisfaction of the SCRS, then Option B is the likely path forward. In this case, the MSE process would be further delayed by at least one year as the SCRS focuses its attention on preparations for a 2020 stock assessment, with MSE to be used as the basis for TAC advice in 2022 at earliest.

Some CPC recognized that the MSE and the traditional stock assessment are conceptually alternative approaches also demanding substantial human resources and that should not be carried out in the same year; nonetheless, considering the complexity of the BFT MSE framework, they wonder whether, in case of the first MSE application, wouldn't be more adequate to have and contrast the results of both approaches. The SCRS Chair explained that due to the amount of work involved for national scientists, it would be nearly impossible for the SCRS to provide a candidate management procedure through the MSE process and to conduct a stock assessment in the same year.

If work on the MSE proceeds under Option A, the Panel 2 Chair proposed that a similar intersessional meeting of the Panel should be held in March 2020. Scientists suggested that a second Panel 2 intersessional or SWGSM meeting in July 2020 might be required as well. The Panel 2 Chair responded that any additional intersessional meeting would need to be considered at the 2019 Commission meeting, taking into account other possible intersessional meetings and the available budget.

## **7. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

## **8. Adoption of report (Parts 1 and 2) and adjournment**

The meeting had insufficient time to review Part 1 and Part 2 of the Report prior to the close of the meeting. The report will, therefore, be adopted by correspondence.

## **Agendas**

### **PART 1: FISHING, CAPACITY, INSPECTION AND FARMING PLANS**

1. Opening of Part 1 of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur for Part 1
3. Adoption of Agenda (Part 1) and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for 2019 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4
6. Clarification of provisions of Rec. 18-02
7. Requirements and procedures for the submission of data and information collected under CPC observer programmes (Rec. 18-02, para 83)
8. Other matters

### **PART 2: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING PANEL 2 ON BFT MSE**

1. Opening of Part 2 of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur for Part 2
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements for Part 2
4. MSE for bluefin tuna – general considerations and review of outcomes of the intersessional meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group
5. Consideration of initial operational management objectives for BFT MSE
  - 5.1 Stock status
  - 5.2 Safety
  - 5.3 Yield
  - 5.4 Stability
6. Consideration of next steps and timeframes
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report (Parts 1 and 2) and adjournment

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## 2019 Fishing Seasons Reported by CPCs in their Fishing Plans

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Max No. PS</i>	<i>Max No. LL or other</i>	<i>Expected start</i>	<i>Expected end</i>	
<b>ALBANIA</b>	1		26-May	01-Jul	
<b>ALGERIE</b>	25		26-May	01-Jul	
<b>CHINA</b>	0	2	end Sep	31-Dec	
<b>EGYPT</b>	2		<b>26-May</b>	01-Jul	
<b>EU</b>	49		26-May	01-Jul	
<b>EU-Adriatic</b>	16		26-May	15-Jul	
<b>EU-LL</b>		176			
<b>EU-BB</b>		106			
<b>EU-TRAW</b>		57			
<b>EU-Hand</b>		46			
<b>EU-Trap</b>					
<b>EU-Other</b>					
<b>ICELAND</b>	0	2	01-Aug	31-Dec	
<b>JAPAN</b>	0	36	01-Jun	31-Dec	
<b>JAPAN-NWC</b>	0	?	01-Feb	31-Jul	
<b>KOREA</b>	0	4	01-Sep	30-Nov	
<b>LIBYA</b>	14		26-May	01-Jul	
<b>MAROC</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>15-May</b>	<b>01-Jul</b>	<b>JFO</b>
<b>MAROC</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>01-May</b>	<b>15-Jun</b>	<b>Local waters</b>
<b>MAROC-Trap</b>		17	01-Apr	31-Jul	
<b>MAROC-Hand</b>		??	15-Jun	15-Oct	
<b>NORWAY</b>	4		25-Jun	15-Nov	
<b>NORWAY LL</b>		4	13-May	31-Dec	
<b>SYRIA</b>	2		15-May	01-Jul	
<b>TUNISIE</b>	44		26-May	01-Jul	
<b>TURKEY</b>	29		15-May	01-Jul	
<b>CH. TAIPEI</b>	0		n/a	n/a	
	<b>188</b>				

**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna farming, fishing,  
farming, inspection and capacity management plan**

**ALBANIA****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Based on ICCAT Recommendation 18-02, which amends ICCAT Recommendation 17-07, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quotas allocated to Albania are 156 t and 170 t for 2019 and 2020, respectively (para 5 of Recommendation 18-02).

Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019 approves implementing provisions of Recommendation 18-02 that amends the ICCAT Recommendation 17-07.

The total quota of bluefin tuna is allocated to purse seiner vessels (155 mt) and incidental by-catch (1 mt).

Only one catching vessel is authorized to fish the Albanian bluefin tuna quota with purse seiners: “Rozafa 15”, a fishing vessel measuring 41 meters, with Fishing License No. LC-6864-02-2018 of date 14.02.2018, with authorization for fish for bluefin tuna as well as one support vessel.

The method used to allocate and manage the quotas is based on Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019, implementing the provisions of Rec. ICCAT 18-02, national legislation as well as in the Albanian fishing fleet register and fleet segments.

**Legal basis**

a) Law No. 64/2012 “On fisheries”, amended, the article 69, Paragraph 1/c)

- Fishing activities for which a multi-annual fishing plan is implemented is conducted by special fishing Authorization.

Paragraph 3:

- The authorization to engage in a particular fishing activity shall be accorded to those fishing vessels which hold the relevant permit under the conditions laid down in this Law and in the legislation in force.

Paragraph 5:

- The fishing authorization becomes invalid when the fishing permit is invalid.

b) DCM Nr. 719, date 12.10.2016 “On management of commercial fishing capacities and some adjustments to the functioning of National Fleet Registry (NFR)”

Article 1 / d)

- The number of professional commercial fishing permits for purse seine vessels on bluefin tuna fishing (*Thunnus thynnus*, Linnaeus 1758) is 1 (one).

Fishing gear groups and fleet segments (DCRF-reported annually to GFCM and DG MARE) are shown in the table below. It is clear that in Albanian fishing fleet register there are no baitboats, longliners, handliners or traps. Even if we go back to the fishing history of the Albania, we do not find these fishing techniques. On the other hand, over the last ten years the number of fishing vessels and their total GT or kW have remained almost the same or have been reduced.

VESSEL GROUPS			LENGTH CLASSES (LOA)			
			< 6 m	6-12 m	12-24 m	> 24 m
Polyvalent	P	Small-scale vessels without engine using passive gears	8	1		
			9			
		Small-scale vessels with engine using passive gears	237	86		
		Polyvalent vessels				
Seiners	S	Purse seiners			11	2
					13	
		Tuna seiners				1
					1	
Dredgers	D	Dredgers			5	
				5		
Trawlers	T	Beam trawlers				
		Pelagic trawlers			19	4
					23	
		Trawlers		2	150	33
Longliners	L	Longliners				

### Open fishing season

CPC Albania will authorize purse seine vessel for bluefin tuna fishing and implementing para 29 (Rec. 18-02), purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July 2019.

### By-catch

Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and Albania does allocate 1 (one) t as a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. Fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners is not developed and no permissions are issued. Use of any kind of driftnets, or similar nets, no matter their size, is strictly prohibited. The permissions issued to small scale vessels clearly indicate the distance from the coast (1-2 NM) and fishing gears to be used (gill nets and trammel nets with respective length and mesh size).

However, if, in any case the specific quota for by-catch is deemed to be exhausted and a dead bluefin tuna has been landed, it must be whole and unprocessed, and it will be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. In addition, any by-catches would be reported to ICCAT and deducted from the Albanian quota either during the fishing season, or, if necessary, from a future quota. All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Catch recording and reporting</b></p> <p><b>Para 63</b></p> <p><b>Para 65</b></p> <p><b>Para 66</b></p>	<p>The Electronic log-book is still under development. During this year, the Master of the authorized vessel is obliged to use the bound fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2. The Master shall transmit every day to the Albanian authorities, during the whole period in which it is authorized to fish bluefin tuna, the daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size. That information shall be sent in the format set out in Annex 2. Masters of purse seiner shall produce reports by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Albanian authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day. On the basis of the information, the Ministry will transmit a weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Annex 4 of DCM No. 407 of 08/05/2013 “Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy”, implementing the EU Regulation 1224/2009 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 “Establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy”.</p> <p>Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Fisheries openings</b></p> <p><b>Para 29</b></p> <p><b>Para 30</b></p>	<p>Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July 2019. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02 Albania may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all</p>	<p>Minister's Authorization</p> <p>Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019</p>	

		vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.		
3	<b>Minimum size Para 34</b>       <b>Para 36</b>	It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, tranship, transfer, land, transport, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. If any bluefin tunas below the minimum size are caught and retained or discarded dead, they will be counted against Albania's quota.	Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019	
4	<b>By-catch Para 38</b>	Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and Albania allocate 1 (one) t as a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. If the specific quota for by-catch is exhausted all by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of Albania and reported to ICCAT. All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea. Albania shall report information on such quantities (landed dead or released live) on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Minister Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not permitted and no quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries.	Paragraph 67, Chapter V, of Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 407 of 08/05/2013, "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy" Is prohibited recreational fisheries for fish stocks that are subject to recovery plans.	
6	<b>Transshipment Para 77</b>       <b>Para 78</b>	Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna shall be allowed only at the designated Shengjin port. Prior to entry into Shengjin port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the Albanian authorities at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping	Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019	

		fishing vessel concerned.		
7	<b>VMS Para 105</b>	VMS implemented; the polling rate is at least once every hour (Rec. 18-10, para 3).	Law No. 64/2012, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system 1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install onboard the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	The bluefish tuna fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners and traps or towing vessels is not developed and no permissions are issued. On the other hand, Albania has started implementing the by-catch monitoring program through the observers on board of fishing vessels (bottom & pelagic trawlers, purse seiners and small-scale artisanal fishing) in 4 designated ports to obtain representative data on the discard component of total by-catch, as well as information on the incidental catch of vulnerable species.	LoA between FAO under GCP/RER/010/ITA and MTF/INT/943/MUL – Baby 26 and the Albanian authorities For provision of “Support the fisheries monitoring of Albania”, signed on 29/01/2019.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Albanian purse seiners fishing vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna will be covered 100% from ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.	Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>			

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

(Attached)

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A

### **Designated ports (Para 69–70)**

Based on Law No. 64/2012, Chapter XIII (Control of multiannual plans), Article 98 Designated ports:

1. The Minister decides to declare a designated port or place close to the shore, which allowed landing or transshipment of fishery products and port services, only based on the following criteria:
  - a) Landing and transshipment time has been determined

- b) Landing and transshipment place have been determined
- c) Inspection and surveillance procedures have been determined

By Ministerial Order No. 102, of 05.02.2019, implementing the provisions of Recommendation 18-02 (para 69), the designated port is Shengjini fishing Port. Landing is every day, from 10.00 - 18.00 o'clock, if the production is not destined to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Joint fishing operations between Albanian vessel and other CPC vessels may be authorized if a JFO is requested by our fishing company. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys, will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadlines. At the moment of the application for JFO authorization, it is mandatory to have the information as foreseen in paragraph 60 of Rec. 18-02.

By special order, No 5, of 28.01.2019, issued by the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, during fishing season, Task - force will be installed to the Shengjini fishing Port, in order to implement duties based on Albanian legislation, ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 and Ministerial Order No. 102, of 05/02/2019.

During this period, in addition to other duties as per articles 67-69, 74-75, 80-83, and 121-124 of Law 64/2012 "On Fisheries", and Ministerial Order No. 102, date 05/02/2019, Fishery Inspector, based on fishing port of Shengjini, and Task force, should prioritize the implementation as follows:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the estimated time of arrival into the port, estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Fishery Inspectors take measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and provide from the master the landing declaration which reflects the above data already specified (by weighing them) and not in a random way.

The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify as to the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The Albanian authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

- The Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by the authorized fishing vessel and the communicated data referred to above, of the landing declarations in the fishing port, as well as other details that the person considers reasonable. The Fishery Inspector shall communicate these data to the Fishery Directorate within 48 hours from landing of fish products by the authorized fishing vessel.
- To ensure that the master of the fishing vessel fills correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- Not to allow bluefin tuna fisheries of specimens under 30 kg or 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector takes measurements of each tuna caught, just landed and verifies the implementation of the foregoing obligation regarding weight/minimum size of fish caught.
- To check the functionality of the vessel's VMS system and with non-stop signal, not interrupted even when in port.

- To send to the Fishery Authorities in the Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- To observe, identify and monitor any quantity of bluefin tuna caught by the Fishing Vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

N/A

**Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7												1													70.7		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78							1	1	1	1	1										49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78			
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																											
Purse seine total fleet								1	1	1	1	1	1															
Longliner over 40m	25																											
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
Total longline fleet																												
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
Total fleet/fishing capacity																												
Quota																						39.65	47.40	56.91	100	156*		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										155		
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																												
Under/ overcapacity																						10.13	2.38	-7.31	-50.22	-84.3		

\* A 1 t quota is set aside for incidental by-catch.

**ALGERIA****Year of Fishing Plan: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Algeria's 2019 fishing plan is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 18-02 and the national regulation and legislation, including in particular the Ministerial Order of 19 April 2010, amended and supplemented, which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for Algerian-flagged vessels and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2019 will be carried out in accordance with the same methods and conditions as of previous campaigns and with other improvements on fishing documentation (logbook) and ICCAT monitoring and control requirements, in particular, the obligation regarding an IMO number for all the fleet participating in the campaign.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Algeria in 2019 is 1,446 t.

Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch 1,437 t. The 1,437 t will be distributed among the tuna purse seine vessel owners that have been selected in accordance with the fishing and maritime security regulatory conditions to participate in the 2019 campaign. A quota of 9 t will be reserved for by-catch.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in the campaign are established in accordance with a national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation. The distribution criterion for individual quotas is based on the size of the vessels used (gross tonnage and vessel length).

For the 2019 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Algeria will allocate fishing quotas only to the tuna purse seine vessels with a length overall between 22 and 40 m. The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 18-02, i.e. 12 May 2019.

With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation and that do not target bluefin tuna, will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Specimens taken as by-catch will be discarded and recorded in logbooks. Any discards of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the Algeria's quota.

Regarding the bluefin tuna fishery opening period, and in accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 18-02, Algeria authorises fishing for bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels for the 2019 campaign, from 26 May to 1 July. In addition, to comply with the provisions of Recommendation 18-02, Algeria has proceeded to amend its regulation to adapt the bluefin tuna fishery opening period.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Catches are recorded in a bound logbook that is maintained onboard the vessel in accordance with the requirements of the ICCAT recommendation. To improve the onboard vessel catch documentation system, the administration is developing a new logbook to improve data recording. Weekly catches of bluefin tuna are communicated to the fishing administration in accordance with paragraphs 65-66 of Recommendation 18-02.	Article 3 and Annex 6 of the Order of 1 March 2017, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Purse seine tuna vessels: 26 May 1 July.	Article 10 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	<p>In accordance with Recommendation 18-02, an amendment to the Order is in the process of being approved by the General Secretariat of the Government to change the fishery opening period.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Algeria may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the</p>

				purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	115 cm - 30 kg. However, by-catch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm in relation to total catch may be authorised. Dead fish will be declared and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.	Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources. Article 23 quarter of the Order of 18 March 2015, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a specific permit for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the Algerian regulation in place, are not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 9 t allocated to by-catch or from Algeria's quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and counted against Algeria's quota. In addition, catches are controlled at port accesses by members	Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004, which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources.	An amendment to the regulation is in the process of being developed which will authorise retaining onboard, landing and declaration of by-catch of bluefin tuna under paragraph 38 of Recommendation 18-02.

		of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.		
5	<b>Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting bluefin tuna in Algeria.	N/A	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Transshipment is prohibited.	Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Legislative and regulatory obligation	Article 20 bis of Law No. 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on the fisheries and aquaculture, and article 7 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	For purse seine tuna vessels, VMS messages are transmitted every hour, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendations 18-02 and 18-10.
8	<b>CPC observer programmes (para 83)</b>	Boarding of two controllers / national observers onboard each of the bluefin tuna purse seine vessels actively targeting bluefin tuna throughout the fishing season.	Article 8 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Regulatory requirement to take onboard ICCAT regional observers	Article 9 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the	

			Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
	<b>Other requirements, such as the tagging programme (para 45).</b>			
	<b>Use of video camera for transfer surveillance</b>	Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraph 91 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 18-02.	Article 17 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 25 tuna purse seine vessels, is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 1,437 t. Therefore, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

Given that Algeria does not have fishing overcapacity and that the number of vessels is currently lower than that quota allocated to it, individual quotas are attributed in accordance with the national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

The list of vessels that should participate in the 2019 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 18-02.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate**

Algeria is not operating any bluefin tuna farming facilities in 2019.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2019 campaign, in accordance with national legislation and the domestic regulation and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out in-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2019 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign.

Two controllers / national observers board each of the tuna purse seine vessels throughout the fishing season. The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing, transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller / observer are required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The polling rate will be every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only, i.e.: Port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Bejaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran, port of Ténès, port of Bouzedjar and the port of Beni Saf. An inspection of products to be landed and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guards). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at the annual meeting held in Dubrovnik, regarding the IMO number of fishing vessels on the ICCAT record, Algeria has proceeded to amend the Order of 19 April 2010 which establishes bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation, amended and supplemented to require an IMO number of vessels participating in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

##### ***b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Algeria has more than 15 tuna vessels that will participate in the 2019 live bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

For implementation of this requirement, it is necessary to deploy qualified inspectors. Currently, Algerian fishing inspectors need to build their capacity for performance of international joint inspections, which, it should be recalled, is a new mission for our fishing inspectors.

Nevertheless, and from the perspective of implementation of this requirement, and within the context of the project of the contracting parties of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), to strengthen integrated control, monitoring and surveillance measures in the Sicilian Channel, two Algerian fishing inspectors boarded, for training purposes, a European patrol vessel during the 2018 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, and two others during the hake fishing campaign and one inspector was assigned to the control centre in Vigo (Spain).

To build the capacity of Algerian inspectors for the performance of joint international inspections, a request for cooperation has been submitted to the EU in connection with implementation of the programme of joint international inspection for the 2019 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, so that Algerian fishing inspectors can board the European Union inspection vessel.

Based on the foregoing, Algeria cannot deploy an inspection vessel for this year. In any case, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-02, in particular paragraph 111, on risk assessment, in the event of non-deployment of a joint international inspection vessel, Algeria undertakes to provide all resources for monitoring and control of the 2019 bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

It should be noted that since resumption of the bluefin tuna fishing activity in 2012, Algerian vessels have been inspected by European Union or Tunisian inspection vessels during each inspection campaign. These inspections have not signalled any serious infringement of the rules adopted by ICCAT.

In addition, fishing inspectors onboard tuna vessels submit to the fisheries administration reports on monitoring of the fishing campaign as well as surveys based on cross-checking of information in the event of potential non-compliance with the national regulation and ICCAT rules.

It should be noted that Algeria has strengthened compliance with regard to the fisheries through implementation of the legislative provisions transcribed in the new law 15-08 that regulates the fisheries and aquaculture and carries heavier sanctions and penalties including custodial sentences, depending on the type of infringement incurred.

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity											
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009(t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	8	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	23	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	597.36	597.36	1144.94
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36
Total purse seine fleet		8	15	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	14	14	25	398.24	730.6	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	614.94	614.94	664.72	664.72	1212.3
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68	0	5.68	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	1	0	10.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	16.36	16.36	10.68	10.68	0	5.68	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		10	18	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	25	408.92	746.28	596.94	596.94	596.94	597.62	597.62	625.62	625.62	664.72	670.4	1212.3
Quota														1460.04	1460.04	1306.35	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.7	1260	1446
Adjusted quota (if applicable)													0	1460.04	1460.04	684.9	138.46	138.46	243.83	243.83	369.81	425.98	1043.7	1300	1437*
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity														997.12	703.76	87.96	-458.48	-458.48	-353.11	-353.11	-255.81	-199.64	378.98	629.6	224.7

\* A 9 t quota is set aside for by-catch.

**CHINA****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)*****Introduction***

According to Recommendation 18-02, China was allocated 90 t of BFT in the 2019 fishing season, China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, the same as last year, namely Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No. 3.

The *Fisheries Law* and the *Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management* are the main national legislation to manage Chinese deep-sea fishing vessels to conduct fishing activities on high seas. In addition, we also issued the *VMS Management regulation* and *Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management* which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on our deep sea fishing vessels, besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs updated and re-issued the ministerial-level document *Notice on further strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures* which enter into force from 1 January of 2019, include the main requirement contained in the ICCAT Recommendation 18-02, such as the minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, logbook requirement, fishing season and designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

**2. Details of fishing plan**

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT and they are all longliners, both Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No.3 will be allocated to 44.5 t, each vessel holds one half of the 89 t, the other 1 t will be allocated for possibly by-catch and discarded catch.

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company, we could manage the quotas through the following ways:

***Observer program:*** usually we implement 100% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in 18-02, the observer must be familiar with the BFT recommendation and every day will record the accurate weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG weight.

***Catch report:*** we have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch report and we could cross-check the catch.

***Logbook:*** the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook, including any other by-catch and incidental catch.

***Landing\transshipment:*** only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities.

***VMS requirement:*** we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.

***Catch documentation:*** using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.

BFT by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by west of 10°W and north of 42°N, and no fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no by-catch and small-scale BFT. However, we reserved 1 t for discarded catch just in case.

***Training program:*** each year we will hold a training program for the fishing vessel owner and vessel master, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec. 18-02 was translated into Chinese and distributed to them for their better understanding and learning.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	We distribute every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook and ask the master to fill it in timely and accurately, the BFT must land and transship at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch to us. We will issue the first warning notice when the quota approaches 80% of the total. When the quota was exhausted we will order the fishing vessels to stop operation and leave the fishing ground immediately, then we report the closure to Secretariat at once.	1. Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42 °N at the end of September until the quotas were exhausted but before usually the end of the year given the very few limited quotas.	1. Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor the Minimum size, any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which is corresponding to Rec. 18-02, prohibit to catch, retain, transship, land and sell BFT less than 30kg or 115cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	1. Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management  2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management.  3. Notice on further strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	By-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels. Any vessels other than BFT fishing vessels are prohibited to catch, retain and transship BFT, any	1. Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management.  2. Regulation on the Implementation of	

		BFT caught by other vessels are not issued eBCD. All the by-catch must be discarded, these discarded BFT is also counted against China's BFT quota, and we allocate 1 t for such kind of discard by-catch.	National Observer Management.  3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Bluefin tuna fishing vessel shall only transship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Transshipment at-sea is not allowed for BFT fishing vessel.	1. Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management  2. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The VMS could be reported to the Secretariat directly and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform, the polling rate is every two hours.	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management.  2. VMS Management Regulation  3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Usually we will implement 100% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulate in the 18-02	1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management.  2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management.  3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	

	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Since only two fishing vessels engage in BFT fishing and these two vessels belong to one company, according to Fisheries Law of PRC, Chinese fishing vessels must comply with measures adopted by RFMO which China is Contracting Party. Chinese fishery competent authority has notified relevant company such requirement of ICCAT on BFT.	
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## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Please see the attachment.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable as China has no BFT farming.

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Not applicable for para 73 as China has no port for BFT fishing vessel to conduct landing and/or transshipment.

Not applicable for para 97, 99, 103, 104 as China has no farming and caging BFT fishery.

### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Not applicable as China has two BFT fishing vessels.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																											
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																											
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																											
Purse seine total fleet																												
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2		100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
Total longline fleet		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2		100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50		
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
Total fleet/fishing capacity		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2		100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	50		
Quota															63.55	61.32	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.9	64.71	79	90		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										89*		
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																												
Under/ overcapacity															-36.4	11.32	-11.52	-13.23	-13.23	-11.81	13.19	20.09	3.9	14.71	29	39		

\*Footnote: 1 metric ton quota is reserved for the discarded by-catch.

**EGYPT****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Introduction**

Fishing activities for eastern Bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 18-02 according to the Bluefin tuna allocation Scheme that was adopted in the 21st Special meetings of ICCAT (Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 12-19 November 2018, paragraph 5), the 2019 quota allocated for Egypt fishing season is 266 t.

The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2019 fishing season in total is 263,340 t.

This total amount will be fished on the authorized fishing vessels as follows:

- *Seven Seas* that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EGY00003) according to the following scheme.
- *Khaled* that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EGY00005) according to the following scheme.

<i>Vessel Allocated Quota (t)</i>		
Purse seine	Seven Seas	131,670 t
Purse seine	Khaled	131,670 t

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) announced the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the General Authority for Fish Resources Development resolutions regarding Bluefin tuna fisheries.

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of Bluefin tuna:

***Decree Number (830) for the year 2019***

- Article (1) the prohibition of Bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 2 July to 25 May of the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.
- Article (2) transfer of any bluefin tuna at sea is prohibited unless it has been previously authorized by the relevant authority.
- Article (3) transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 18 -02.

***Decree Number (828) for the year 2011***

- Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of Bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.
- Article (2) all transfer from purse seiners to towing cages should be monitored by video camera and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions. In context of para. 75 of ICCAT Rec. 14 – 04

***Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011***

- Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of Bluefin tuna except in the port of EL-Meadia for Bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.
- Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish Bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD on-board.

***Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019***

- Article (3) all authorized BFT fishing vessels masters shall use and record fishing logbook in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02.

***Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019***

- Article (1) as a deadline each year on 15 February an allocated quota of bluefine tuna shall be specified as by-catch of the total allowed quota.
- Article (2) all Bluefin tuna by-catch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board, the percentage calculated per each trip in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).
- Article (3) all by-catch shall be landed at the designated port and shall be monitored/inspected by the assigned inspector at the designated port, relative procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.
- Article (4) all discarded by-catch of bluefin tuna whether alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately.

- Article (5) all exceeded by-catch shall be deducted against the total allowed quota.

In the case of non-compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the Bluefin tuna fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from Bluefin tuna fisheries.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	All information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD - using available inspection reports, regional and national observers' reports also Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.	Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011  Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 2 July to 14 May of the next year. Moreover, the closed season for Bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.  The authorized period for fishing Bluefin is from 15 May to 1 July 2019.  In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Egypt may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.	Resolution Number (830) for the year 2019	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 shall be strictly implemented.  National observer/inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the ICCAT relative recommendation Rec. 18-02 during the season.  The prohibition of fishing of Bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.  Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT. Weighting (8 to 30 KG) or fork length 75 to 115 cm. may be authorized.	Decree Number (828) for the year 2011	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		All life-undersize BFT. Must be released to sea and the dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota.		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>Egypt shall specify allocated quota for by-catch 1% of the total allowed quota yearly.</p> <p>In 2019 fishing season a quantity of 2,66 t is specified as quota for by-catch.</p> <p>All by-catch quantities shall be calculated for each trip against the total catch on board which must not exceed 20% from the total catch on board, those quantities as by-catch shall be Calculated in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).</p> <p>Vessels not fishing actively for Bluefin tuna are monitored by our national inspectors on landing ports to count any by-catches of BFT (in case if any) in order to ensure implementing of ICCAT Rec. 18-02.</p> <p>All our inspectors in landing ports has been instructed to Monitored and report of any by-catch of BFT. All over the year.</p> <p>In case of BFT by-catch occurred, investigation shall be done in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02.</p> <p>Egypt shall submit quarterly its by-catch report and final report by the end of the year declaring all BFT. By-catches (if any) must be deducted from the specified by-catch quota of the year.</p> <p>In case of exceeding the assigned quota for by-catch, all exceeding quantities must be deducted from the next year assigned quota for by-catch.</p> <p>The amount of by-catch discarded whether alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. At the same time, all by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Egypt. In accordance with ICCAT Rec. 18-02. All BFT by-catch quantities shall be landed only at the designated ports.</p>	Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.	Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Rec. 14-04 and Rec. 18-02.	Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All authorized BFT vessels fishing actively for 2019 fishing season, shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) on-board, as required by GAFRD, on the basis of a transmission every 2 hours as minimum requirement.		
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	One of the national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions. The permanent observer in port is assigned to follow up the landed catches (if any) and reviewing the on board observers reports.	Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send deployment request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have Arabic speaker observer (s) for the authorized fishing vessel (as the case maybe). All BFT vessels, fishing actively in 2019 fishing season have to be covered (100%) by two observers (one national observer and one ICCAT ROP Observer).		
<b>10</b>	<b>Joint Fishing Operations (JFO)</b>	Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing vessels operator.		

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan

The Egyptian fishing capacity plan for season 2019 is attached.

## 3. Annual farming management plan

Not applicable since Egypt has no BFT farm yet.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2019 Bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e. fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any.

In case of any BFT landing after receiving notification from the catching vessel an inspection shall be done by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort.

According to the National law No. 124/1983, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in cases of emergency.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity														
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																													
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	49.78	49.78	49.78				
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1		0	0	0	34	34	34	34	34	34	33.7	0	33.68				
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46				
Longliner over 40m	25																													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																													
Longliner less than 24m	5																													
Total longline fleet																														
Baitboat	19.8																													
Handline	5																													
Trawler	10																													
Trap	130																													
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																													
Other (please specify)	5																													
Total fleet /fishing capacity		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46				
Quota													2		0	50	33	65	65	77	77	79	100	113.67	181	266				
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																								123.67		263.34*				
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																														
Under/overcapacity																		31	31	-6.4	-6.4	-4.3	16	40.21	131.22	179.88				

\*2.66 t has been reserved for by-catch.

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU)****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Introduction**

The European Union hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans and its Farming Management plan for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT).

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by more artisanal sectors, such as the baitboats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The eight EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspections means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU Law ICCAT Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending ICCAT Recommendation [08-05], adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan, which took place under ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. Regulation 544/2014 transposed these additional measures into EU law. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] replaced by Recommendation [17-07] into EU law. EU have started the transposition into EU law of the new provisions in the ICCAT Recommendation [18-02].

**2. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

In 2019, the EU will continue to implement the provisions of Recommendation [17-07], until the entry into force of the provisions of Recommendation [18-02] expected for 21 June 2019.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation [17-07], the quota for the EU in 2019 will be 17,536 t, and will upon the entry into force of Recommendation [18-02] be 17,623 t.

EU has drawn up the annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas. All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

The EU has allocated quotas<sup>1</sup> to the following sectors:

<b>TUNA VESSEL FLEET</b>	<b>2019</b>	
<b>Type</b>	<b>Fleet (No vessels)</b>	<b>Quota allocated (t)</b>
Purse seiner over 40m	28	5,699.03
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	33	3,916.30
Purse seiners less than 24m	4	187.00
<b>Total Purse Seine fleet</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>9,852.11</b>
Longliner over 40m	0	0.00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	4	42.30

<sup>1</sup> The EU capacity plan shows the potential capacity that EU can deploy, with the maximum number of vessels and the minimum quota that should be allocated to each gear type following the catch rates in accordance with the methodology approved in the 2009 annual meeting. The EU fishing plan on the other hand shows the actual number of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2019 and the quota allocated to them. In 2019, the number of vessels in the fishing plan (1347) is lower than the number in the capacity plan (1386).

Longliner less than 24m	171	1,540.48
<b>Total longline fleet</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,582.78</b>
Baitboat	74	1,103.30
Handline	46	207.60
Trawler	51	392.00
Trap	14	2,055.72
	870	1,549.61
Other	52	260.00
Recreational		125.21
By-catch reserve		407.67
<b>Total fleet/fishing allocation</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>17,536.00</b>
<b>Quota</b>		17,536.00
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		17,536.00
<b>Under-capacity (t)</b>		0.00
<b>Unallocated (t)</b>		87.00

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels', and will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2019 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Rec. [17-07] and paragraph 50 of the Rec. [18-02].

The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendations [17-07]/[18-02], [06-07], [11-20]/[18-13] and [17-09]/[18-12].

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. [17-07] and [18-02] as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps have to send daily reports to the Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission, which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat. In 2019, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 <sup>2</sup> Section 2 Article 25 "Recording Requirements" "Catches", Article 26 "Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators", Article 27 "Weekly and monthly catch reports sent by the Member States", Article 28 "Information on quota exhaustion" Article 29 "Yearly reporting of catches by the Member States".	All catch reports are recorded at EU level, cross checks are made between the authorization, the individual quota, the national quota and the JFO quota (when relevant). In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				covered by Art. 25 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627.
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	<p>The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT Rec. [17-07]. Art 11 and Art 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 implement them into EU law.</p> <p>According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted. In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 12 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted. A special reporting and alert system is in place to verify at EU level the quota use in each Member State for each fleet.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", SECTION 1 "Fishing seasons",</p> <p>Article 11 "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries"</p> <p>Article 12 "Baitboats and trolling boats"</p>	<p>Conditioned on the entry into force of Recommendation [18-02], fishing seasons will be extended as follows:</p> <p>Fishing season for purse seine vessels will be extended to 1 July.</p> <p>By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 15 July in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>Fishing season for pelagic trawlers will be extended to 31 December.</p> <p>Fishing season for recreational and sport vessels will be extended until 1 November in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of the respect of the fishing seasons. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation [18-02], EU may extend its fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of 10 days in case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs, evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessel members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	According to Art. 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, incidental	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures",	For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota.</p> <p>Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013 establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98.</p>	<p>Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 14 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 15 "Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 14(2).</p>	<p>Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124<sup>3</sup> of 30 January 2019 and Annex IV, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned.</p> <p>Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the JDP (Joint Deployment plan) (see 3.2.2.).</p> <p>Conditioned on the entry into force of Rec. [18-02] a tolerance of a maximum of 7% weight for specimens with a minimum size of 6.4 or 66 cm caught by PS operating in the Adriatic Sea.</p>
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as by-catch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quota in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019.</p> <p>For more visibility and transparency all quota allocated to by-catch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 16 "By-catch"</p>	<p>A by-catch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019.</p> <p>Any by-catch in excess of the 5% limit, is released alive whenever possible.</p> <p>Conditioned on the entry into force of the Rec. [18-02] this level of by-catch could be higher than 5% but shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. For small scale coastal vessels the amount of by-catch may be calculated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU Regulation</p>

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				(EU) 404/2011 provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook.  All by-catches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota. In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational quota in the 2019 fishing plan. Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established based on a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. The European Commission through verification missions assesses these programs.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter IV "Sport and Recreational Fisheries", Article 19 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"	Under Art. 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards that information to the SCRS. In 2019, the limit of one fish per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 3" Landings and transshipments", Article 32 "Transshipment"	Art. 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports. Full inspection coverage is ensured during all transshipment times and at all transshipment places.
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The team responsible within the EU for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place. All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.	According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 49 Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.	Under Art. 49 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 EU Member States are obliged to ensure that VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least every two hours. A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Masters of any fishing vessel holding a European licence for Eastern BFT pelagic trawler, long liner, baitboat and traps as well as masters of towing vessels receive national observers according to measures set up by Regulation (EU) 2016/1627.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 50 "National observer programme"	Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers. EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial presence of national observers on their vessels and traps to ensure that the European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework.
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 51 "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme".	
10	<b>Tagging programme (para 45)</b>	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 5 of (EU) Reg. 640/2010.	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5d of ICCAT Recommendation [17-09]/[18-12].
		Conditioned on the entry into force of Rec. [18-02], up to 65 <sup>4</sup> sport/recreational vessels will conduct catch-and-release activities in the context of		National Control Authorities would monitor the activities of these vessels both at sea and at landing to ensure

<sup>4</sup> The number is subject to revision according to the level of funding.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes between the date of the entry into force of the Recommendation and 31 December.</p> <p>The objective of the project will be to study the distribution and stock composition of the Bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Researchers will report about their activities in accordance the provisions applicable for this in ICCAT.</p>		<p>compliance with National and EU Regulations.</p> <p>Tagging will be operated by staff of Marine Institutes or by recreational fishing vessel operators. Operators concerned will be trained in tagging using Floy (spaghetti) tags, used to avoid stress to the fish and take a small tissue sample for genetic analysis.</p>
11	<b>Intra-farm transfers and random controls in farms (para 103)</b>	<p>In accordance with paragraph 103 of ICCAT Rec. [18-02], random controls shall take place in farms between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following year.</p> <p>Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other farm cage(s) in order that the number of BFT can be counted by way of conventional video record(s).</p> <p>The number of controls shall be decided by the farm flag state authorities on the basis of their risk assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the number of controls shall cover not less than either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 5% of the total number of farm cages in each farm under each farm flag state jurisdiction always involving at least one control, or,</li> <li>* 5% of the total fish reported in the farm cages.</li> </ul>		
12	<b>Carry-over estimations in farms (para 9)</b>	<p>In accordance with the measures laid down in para 9 of ICCAT Rec. [18-02], the following procedures shall be followed:</p> <p>Between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>year, all fish remaining in cages from which harvesting operations have taken place, shall be transferred to other farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken made by way of stereoscopic cameras. Until SRCS review the growth tables as referred to in para 28 of ICCAT Rec. [18-02], average weights shall be estimated according to the current growth tables taking into account the fish that has already been harvested. For all other fish in cages between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following year for which no harvesting operations have taken place, the procedures as above shall be followed based on a proportion of fish in accordance with a sampling programme documented by control authorities.</p>		

### **3. Annual Fishing Capacity Management Plan (Para 18-23)**

The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

### **4. Annual Farming Management Plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

The farming management plan for EU is detailed below. This plan may be subject to amendment in line with paragraph 46 of Recommendation 17-07.

<i>EU Member State</i>	<i>Number of farms</i>	<i>Capacity (t) 2019</i>
<b>Active Farms</b>		
<b>Croatia</b>	7	7,880
<b>Spain</b>	5	9,640
<b>Malta</b>	6	12,300
<b>Portugal</b>	1	500
<b>Inactive Farms<sup>5</sup></b>		
<b>Other</b>	23	19,912
<b>Total EU</b>	42	50,232

<b>Farm Name</b>	<b>ICCAT FFB</b>	<b>Wild Input (t)</b>	<b>Capacity (t)</b>
TUNA GRASO	ATEU1ESP00001	1,000	2,560
ATUNES DE MAZARRON	ATEU1ESP00002 <sup>5</sup>		777
CALADEROS DEL MEDITERRANEO	ATEU1ESP00003	2,000	2,500
ENSENADA DE BARBATE	ATEU1ESP00004	1,000	1,040
BALFEGO TUNA, S.L.	ATEU1ESP00005	2,000	2,500
PISCIFACTORIAS DE LEVANTE	ATEU1ESP00006 <sup>5</sup>		100
PROYECTO DE ENGORDE DE ATUN ROJO EN ESTRUCTURAS FLOTANTES DESMONTABLES	ATEU1ESP00008 <sup>5</sup>		435
TUNA GRASO	ATEU1ESP00011	1,000	1,040
NATURE PESCA S.L.	ATEU1ESP00013 <sup>5</sup>		500
MEDITERRANEO	ATEU1ESP00014 <sup>5</sup>		400
JADRAN TUNA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00008	tbd	1,110
PELAGOS NET FARMA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00011	tbd	900
SARDINA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00006	tbd	1,400
KALI TUNA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV012	tbd	1,470
KALI TUNA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV013	tbd	1,500
KALI TUNA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV015	tbd	500
KALI TUNA D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV016	tbd	1,000
MFF	ATEU1MLT00004	1,781.6	2,500
TA MATTEW	ATEU1MLT00007	356.3	500
FISH & FISH	ATEUMLT00003	2,138.0	3,000
MARE BLU	ATEUMLT00008	2,138.0	3,000
MML	ATEUMLT00002	1,140.3	1,600
AJD	ATEUMLT00001	1,211.5	1,700
TUNIRASE	ATEU1PRT00002	350.0	500
KITIANA FISHERIES LTD.	ATEU1CYP00002 <sup>5</sup>		1,000
OCEANIS AQUACULTURE LTD	ATEU1CYP00003 <sup>5</sup>		1,000
KIMAGRO FISHFARMING LTD	ATEU1CYP00001 <sup>5</sup>		1,000
BLUEFIN TUNA HELLAS S.A.	ATEU1GRC00001 <sup>5</sup>		1,000
POSEIDON TUNA HELLAS S.A.	ATEU1GRC00002 <sup>5</sup>		1,100
NEW EUROFISH S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00001 <sup>5</sup>		1,500
TUNA FISH S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00004 <sup>5</sup>		700
PESCAZZURRA S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00005 <sup>5</sup>		1,500
CONSORZIO OPERATORI DEL TONNO	ATEU1ITA00006 <sup>5</sup>		1,500

<sup>5</sup> Farms currently inactive but subject to be active in the future.

DEL MEDITERRANEO			
SOC. ITTICA TRAPPETO A.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00007 <sup>5</sup>		600
JONICA PESCA S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00008 <sup>5</sup>		2,000
PROCIDA TUNA FARM S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00009 <sup>5</sup>		300
IORIO GENNARO	ATEU1ITA00011 <sup>5</sup>		600
LA FAVORITA SNC	ATEU1ITA00015 <sup>5</sup>		500
ITTICA OFFSHORE DEL TIRRENO S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00016 <sup>5</sup>		300
DE.MO. PESCA DI PASQUALE DELLA MONICA & C. S.A.S.	ATEU1ITA00017 <sup>5</sup>		600
SOC. COOP. PESCATORI SAN FRANCESCO DI PAOLA	ATEU1ITA00019 <sup>5</sup>		1,200
ORIZON MARITIMAS ITALIA SARL	ATEU1ITA00020 <sup>5</sup>		1,300

## 5. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### 5.1 CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 5.2 below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

#### 5.1.1 European Commission inspections

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the Bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT Recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2019 fishing campaign, European Commission inspectors will once again be very active in 2019.

#### 5.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

### 5.2 Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

#### 5.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)<sup>6</sup> to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Bluefin tuna and Swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

#### 5.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean,

<sup>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

Mediterranean Swordfish from 2017 and Mediterranean Albacore from 2018. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, traps and farms.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2019 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessel and aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2019 JDP will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities. In 2019, the EU will conduct up to 421 days of control and inspection activities at sea and around 36 flights of air surveillance, which reflects the total number of days committed by MS and EFCA for all species under the JDP.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment. Cooperation of EFCA in the context of Coastguard function through sightings reported by FRONTEX assets has allowed identifying serious PNCs in non-EU waters in recent years.

### *5.2.3 Control of caging operations*

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The specific measures adopted, including those under Annex 9 of Rec. [17-07]/[18-02], are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. As in previous years, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras in 2019.

### *5.2.4 Member States annual Inspection plans*

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2019 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for Bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [17-07]. Conditioned of the entry into force of the Recommendation [18-02], and in order to strength controls of live fish, additional control measures will be taken to establish a greater control of carry-over operations as well as to establish a level of random controls based on risk assessment to ensure traceability of intra-farms transfers.

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	17	37	43	2685	2473	1625	1413	1413	1413	1272	1272	1485	1273	2616	3040	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	29	17	18	4530	2190	1394	896	896	896	1245	1294	1195	1394	846	896	
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	4	3772	269	0	0	0	0	67	34	67	101	135	135	
Purse seine total fleet		241	87	51	38	38	38	45	45	47	49	58	65	10987	4933	3019	2309	2309	2309	2584	2600	2747	2767	3597	4071	
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	1	12	12	40	74	85	57	45	34	34	28	28	6	68	68	
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	94	127	164	1645	970	955	840	450	445	520	680	710	470	635	820	
Total longline fleet		336	207	206	178	98	95	110	141	147	95	139	176	1685	1044	1040	897	495	479	554	708	738	476	703	888	
Baitboat	19.8	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	62	88	106	1343	1363	1363	1343	1343	1343	435	454	1485	1228	1742	2099	
Handline	5	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	42	46	46	505	190	155	155	155	155	505	210	200	210	230	230	
Trawler	10	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	57	57	57	1600	720	780	600	600	570	570	570	510	570	570	570	
Trap	130	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	12	12	14	1950	1950	1690	1690	1560	1820	1560	1820	1820	1560	1560	1820	
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A												870												4350*	
Other (polyvalent)	5	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	465	715	52	1265	1910	1880	1110	770	675	1265	1990	1585	2325	3575	260	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	870	824	610	461	438	600	720	691	782	1115	1386	19335	12109	9927	8104	7233	7351	7473	8352	9085	9136	11977	14288	
Quota														17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850	17536	

PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>														16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850*	17536
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>																									
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>														-3124	438	-2446	-1972	-1100	587	466	1021	2118	4316	3873	3248

\*The minimum quota requirement of 5 t will apply until the entry into force of the Recommendation [18-02]. From this date, the minimum requirement of 5 t will no longer apply for vessels that have chosen to fish under the sectorial quota.

**ICELAND****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

The East Atlantic bluefin tuna quota of Iceland for the year 2019 is 147 tonnes, according to Rec. 18-02 para 5 Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019 and 2020 combined shall not exceed 411 t (84+147+180). The Icelandic quota may therefore be revised accordingly up to 25% of 147 tonnes. The quota will be allocated to two longline vessels, 70 tonnes each and 7 tonnes will be reserved for incidental by-catches by other Icelandic fishing vessels. Icelandic authorities will adjust the quota allocation of the longliners if by-catches exceed 7 tonnes in 2019.

The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on ITQ's and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and a sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing.

The longliners will each be allocated an individual quota for 70 tonnes each, if needed the quota reserved for incidental by-catches of bluefin tuna by other Icelandic vessel will be adjusted to cover all catches.

Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs and mandatory weighing of all catches at landing. The Directorate keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration to the Directorate. Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board the longliners for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessels need written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MFRI.

The longline fishing season will start 1 August and end 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental by-catches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quotas are fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is fished or the vessels notify of an end to fishing operations in 2019.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis, VMS notifications by the longliners will be transmitted to ICCAT every 2 hours.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates 2019 electronically.

No transshipments are allowed.

All Icelandic catches are weighed at landing and registered into the Directorate's online database.

Relevant requirements of ICCAT Recommendations on EA-bluefin tuna fisheries are implemented in a special bluefin regulation issued each year by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Iceland.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	BFT longliner with Electronic Logbook, all landings recorded in online database of the Directorate.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2019.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	1 August – 31 December in NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2019.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned, if dead to be landed and recorded.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2019.	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Discards of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial catches must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks. In 2019, 7 tonnes of BFT quota will be reserved to account for incidental by-catches by the Icelandic fleet. Adjusted if needed.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sports fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed in 2019.		
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	No transshipments are allowed.		
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis, VMS notifications by the longline vessel will be transmitted to ICCAT every 2 hours.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2019.	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the Directorate of Fisheries. Inspectors shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2019.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Only longline fisheries, no RO.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>			

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

See attached Table.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

No farming – not applicable.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Longline vessels need written permission from the Directorate of Fisheries to leave port for bluefin tuna fishing without an inspector onboard from the Directorate. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the Directorate are present at all landings of BFT.

##### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Iceland only authorizes two longline vessels and is not required to be part of an ICCAT International inspection plan. Not applicable

**Landing Ports:** Authorized landing ports in Iceland for BFT in 2019 are attached in CP24.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																											
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																											
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																											
Total Purse Seine Fleet																												
Longliner over 40m	25							1	1	1	1	1	2								25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68			2	1	1	1										11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68								
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
Total Longline Fleet				2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2															
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10	1													10													
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira																												
Other (please specify)	5																											
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		10.00	0.00	11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00		

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Quota															51.53	49.72	31.20	29.80	29.82	30.97	30.36	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																0.72		78.80									
Allowance for sport/recreatio nal (if applicable)																				2.00	2.00	2.00					
Under/ overcapacity															41.53	0.72	19.84	73.12	24.14	23.29	3.36	9.57	18.71	27.48	59.00	97.00	180.00

**JAPAN****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Japan's quota for 2019 fishing season (from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020) is 2,544 t. All Japanese fishing vessels catching Bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding management system including individual quotas. The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) is an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan which enforces the Ministerial Ordinance on Japanese fishermen.

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for the 2019 fishing season as soon as those vessels are selected. Although the number of licensed LSTLVs in 2019 is not confirmed at this stage, Japan will adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates, in accordance with paragraph 18 of Rec. 18-02. As Japan's BFT quota will be increased, the number of licensed vessels is expected to be slightly higher than in 2018, but well below the capacity calculated in accordance with Rec. 18-02 for ensuring compliance. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, FAJ will inform the vessel name, quantities of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing campaign begins, which starts from August 1 and ends in July 31.

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, type of product, individual BFT weights, tag numbers, and number of live releases and dead discards including those of under the minimum size. The FAJ monitors the catch of individual vessels based on each vessel's quota and catch report. If there is a dead discard, it is deducted from Japan's quota. Japan will make reserved quota to cover the dead discards. The amount of the reserved quota will be decided when the Minister issues licenses to fishermen to fish for BFT (cf. the amount of reserved quota for 2018 fishing season was 10 t). In addition, the Minister will set aside 1t for by-catch for other fisheries,

Landing at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows to land at ten domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the ten ports, landing of BFT by both fishing vessels and carrier vessels will be inspected 100% by the FAJ official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the collected information with the previously reported data including daily report.

All fishing vessels operate in the almost same period between September and November every year without entering ports during the period. Therefore, the observers are on board the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that the temporal representation is secured. In addition, the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off Ireland. There should be little concern about the spatial representation under such condition.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day. In addition, the Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from BFT fishing in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching for BFT weighing less than 30kg. However, the Minister may authorize the operators to catch incidentally the maximum 5% by number of BFT weighting between 8 and 30 kg. If the percentage of the small BFT catch exceeds 5%, the excess fish must be released and the amount of dead discards will be deducted from the reserved quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing of BFT. Japan will set aside 1t of the quota for by-catch.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 57	
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in ICCAT area.	N/A	
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered to the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59	

7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The Minister will require fishing vessels to be equipped with a VMS able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every two hours to FAJ. FAJ transmits the VMS data from fishing vessels for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24-2	
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	FAJ will ensure the observers coverage on board at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas.	N/A	
9	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for E-BFT.	N/A	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by SCRS (see **Table 1**). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 18-02, will ensure that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A

## 4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

### a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

#### (i) *Characteristic of Japanese E-BFT Fishery*

The Northeast Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of the Ireland is the only E-BFT fishing ground for the Japanese fleet. The fishing season usually starts from the end of September and lasts until the end of November in recent years. The E-BFT fishing area is remote from fishing areas of bigeye tuna, which is another primary target fish for the Japanese fleet and caught around the equator. This means that LSTLVs targeting E-BFT is distinguishable from LSTLVs targeting other fish such as bigeye, by their position.

#### (ii) *Monitoring the E-BFT fishery in accordance with the Rec. 18-02 and other ICCAT measures*

The FAJ constantly monitors LSTLVs' positions in the entire Atlantic Ocean through the VMS. The agency issues special licences to LSTLVs fishing actively E-BFT and allocates quotas to those vessels. The FAJ ensures through the VMS that the LSTLVs without license and quota do not operate in the E-BFT fishing ground. Also, the FAJ requires the licensed vessels to transmit daily catch report to the FAJ during the BFT fishing season. The FAJ closely monitors the accumulated catches to make sure that licensed vessels comply with their quotas.

The FAJ distributes official tags only to LSTLVs having E-BFT quotas. The Ministerial Ordinance requires Japanese fishermen to attach the tag to every BFT caught by them. Landing of any E-BFT without the tag is forbidden.

Reporting requirements regarding transshipment are also established by the Ministerial Ordinance. LSTLVs shall acquire authorization from the FAJ before the transshipment at ports. The FAJ also receives transshipment declaration in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. The FAJ examines such information and checks the consistency with the accumulated catch amount. Such information will be verified through the landing inspections by the FAJ inspectors when the BFT is landed in Japan.

*(iii) Additional measure adopted by FAJ(1) - Very low capacity of Japanese LSTLVs*

Moreover, the FAJ limits the number of catching vessels fishing for BFT well below the limit articulated by the Recommendation 18-02. This diminishes the economic incentive of the fishermen to violate regulations since the allocated quota will be enough for each catching vessel to make profit through the BFT fishing. **Table 1** shows that Japan's E-BFT fleet has very low capacity (36 vessels in 2018), compared to the limit calculated in accordance with the Rec. 18-02 (2,544 t (quota)/25 t (per one LSTLVs over 40 m)=101.8 vessels)

*(iv) Additional measure adopted by FAJ(2) – 100% Landing inspection by FAJ officials*

The Ministerial Ordinance prohibits landing of BFT at any foreign port. All of the BFT caught by Japanese fishermen including those brought by carrier vessels must be landed in 10 designated ports in Japan. Those ports are the final destination of BFT caught by Japanese fishermen; this scheme enables the FAJ to conduct direct landing inspections against the landed E-BFT. In fact, the FAJ has been implementing 100% landing inspections against the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs since 2009. A range of information collected through the MSC measures mentioned above (e.g. weight and number of E-BFT, attachment of plastic tags) are utilized at the landing inspections.

*(v) Cooperation with port state and importing state*

Many of E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs are also subject to port inspection by coastal CPCs. When the LSTLVs exhaust their catch quotas, they usually make transshipments of E-BFT at other CPCs' ports, which may be subjected to inspections by the port state, in accordance with Recommendation 18-09. It is rare that a catching vessel carrying the E-BFT goes back to Japan after the end of the BFT fishing season because, in most cases, Japanese LSTLVs change their target fish to bigeye tuna (moving to south) and continue their operation in the ICCAT area.

*(vi) Risk analysis for illegal BFT fishing*

In a hypothetical case that a Japanese LSTLV successfully poaches the E-BFT despite the MSC measures described above, the vessel has to sell the fish somewhere in the world. The importing state, especially if an ICCAT member, shall require eBCD to import the E-BFT. However, the FAJ will never validate electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document (eBCD) for the export of fish to the market states.

In another hypothetical case a Japanese LSVTL successfully poaches the E-BFT and attempts to bring the fish to Japan, such illegally-caught E-BFT are prohibited from landing, and can be easily identified by the landing inspections of the FAJ or business operators in Japan because an official tag is not attached to the fish and the fish is not accompanied by an eBCD. Furthermore, business operators are prohibited from buying such illegal fish by the Ministerial Ordinance.

*(vii) Conclusion*

To conclude, Japan fully implements MCS measures and capacity control as required relevant recommendation of the ICCAT. In addition, Japan adopts some additional and very effective MCS measures, including 100% landing inspection. Moreover, the compliance of Japanese LSTLVs is further ensured through assistance of and cooperation with port states and possible market state. Those combined measures are expected to eliminate any possibility of IUU fishing of E-BFT by Japanese vessels. Given the effectiveness of the combined measures, the FAJ is not going to dispatch its inspection vessel for the BFT fishing.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Japan will not be part of an ICCAT International Inspection plan, due to its alternative measures described in the previous sub-paragraph.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																											
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																											
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																											
Total Purse Seine Fleet																												
Longliner over 40m	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	36*		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	900*		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
Total Longline Fleet		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	36*		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	900*		
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Island and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
Total fleet/fishing capacity		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	36*		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	900*		

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

<b>Quota</b>															2430.5 4	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.5 5	1139.5 5	1345.4 4	1608.2 1	1930.8 8	2279	2544	
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>															2430.5	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097	1139.5 5	1139.5 5	1390.4 4	1583.2 1	1910.9	2279	2534**	
<b>Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)</b>																											
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>															1,206	1,046	598	547	597	590	590	690	808	1,086	1,379	1634*	

\* The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels and reserved quota are confirmed, these figures will be revised and be communicated to the Secretariat. (please refer to the main text).

\*\* Japan tentatively sets aside 9t for dead discards by the BFT fishery and allocates 1t for by-catch by the other fishery.

**KOREA****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

At the 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of ICCAT (Dubrovnik, November 2018), it was decided to allocate 184t of bluefin tuna quota to the Republic of Korea for 2019. However, in accordance with the paragraph 5 of the Recommendation 18-02 (17-07), Chinese Taipei annually transferred 50t of its quota to Korea in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Taking into account the above mentioned transfer, Korea has 234t of quota for 2019.

The authorized fishing vessels catching BFT in the Eastern Atlantic will be tentatively two to four large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLV). The fishing season is scheduled to be from 1 September to 30 November 2019. The fisheries work is governed by Distant Water Fisheries Development Act. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) will authorize longliners to catch BFT for 2019 fishing year with individual quotas as soon as those vessels are selected. MOF will inform the ICCAT Secretariat of the name of vessels, the amount of individual quotas and other necessary information at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

***a) Communication and Reporting of Catches***

Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch report) to MOF by the end of the next day of their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight, number and weight of discarded/released fish (discards will be counted against the quota) and etc. Korea will submit weekly and monthly catch reports to the Secretariat. MOF monitors up-to-date status of catch against individual quota on a vessel-by-vessel basis based on their daily reports.

***b) VMS, Transshipment, Observer and Tagging Program***

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS onboard, and shall be tracked and reported to the Secretariat as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every two hours in accordance with the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of Rec. 18-10. BFT fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with the prior authorization. MOF will require more than 25% observer coverage for Korean-flagged vessels to which BFT quotas will be allocated during their fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.

***c) By-catch Management and e-BCD***

The Korean government has instructed that Korean vessels that do not target bluefin tuna shall not retain bluefin tuna by-catches in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Recommendation 18-02 (17-07). In practice, there is almost “zero” possibility that by-catch occurs because all of the Korean tuna fishing vessels other than bluefin tuna catching vessels are operating in the tropical area, i.e. around the equator. Some fishing vessels catching squid operate in the southern part of Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Falkland Islands. Nevertheless, Korea will set aside 0.5ton of its quota for possible by-catch. The amount of any by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Korea and these data will be reported to ICCAT. Korea has implemented its e-BCD system since 1 May 2016 on a mandatory basis.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook as well as electronic logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Weekly and monthly catch reports will be submitted.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Four or less Korean longline vessels will be scheduled to catch BFT from 1 September 2019 to 30 November 2019 in West of 10°W and North of 42°N	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighting less than 30kg or with fork length less than 115cm. Fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against Korea's BFT quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	By-catch is very unlikely and not allowed but it will be deducted from Korea's quota, if any. Korea will set aside 0.5t of quota for this purpose.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Not applicable. Korea does not have any recreational or sports fisheries.	N.A.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	At-sea transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited. Transshipment of bluefin tuna shall take place in the designated ports only.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS onboard, and shall be tracked and reported to the Secretariat every two hours in accordance with the	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 15	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		requirements set out in paragraph 3 of Rec.18-10. The transmission of VMS data to the Secretariat will start at least 5 days before the authorization and will continue at least 5 days after the period of authorization.		
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	MOF will ensure the observers coverage onboard at 25% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1,13-2, 21	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	Not applicable.	N.A.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Since 2017, Korea has been conducting tagging program with archival tags (PSATs) by scientific observers as part of cooperation for GBYP.		

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Taking into account the catch rate by the SCRS and allocated quota in 2019, Korea may be authorized with 7 longline vessels (over 40m) which are commensurate with its fishing capacity. However, Korea will limit the number of authorized BFT fishing vessels to four or less this year. Please refer to the separate information attached providing the number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not Applicable (Korea has no farming activities).

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

When a ship laden with overseas catches intends to enter a domestic port, it shall submit an entry report to MOF prior to the scheduled entry. In particular, a ship is subject to port inspection when it is loaded with fish species managed by RFMOs including ICCAT.

As operating less than 15 fishing vessels, Korea is not subject to Paragraph 111 of Rec. 18-02 which stipulates that any CPCs with 15 fishing vessels or more shall operate its own inspection vessel or joint inspection vessel operated with other CPCs.

### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Korea has no inspection vessel to join the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection.

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)													Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																									
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																									
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seine total fleet		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner over 40m	25									2	4	3	4									50	100	75	100	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																									
Longliner less than 24m	5																									
Total longline fleet										2	4	3	4									50	100	75	100	
Baitboat	19.8																									
Handline	5																									
Trawler	10																									
Trap	130																									
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																									
Other (please specify)	5																									
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	3	4	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	50	100	75	100	
Quota		335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	184	335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	184	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		335.0	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	234	335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	233.5	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																										
Under/ overcapacity														301.32	98.58	47.46	43.85	43.85	46.85	46.85	0.08	113.66	81.46	135	133.5	

\* According to paragraph 5 of Rec. 18-02, Chinese Taipei transferred 50t of its quota to Korea in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

\* In 2019, according to paragraph 38 of Rec. 18-02, Korea set aside 0.5t of its quota for by-catch.

**LIBYA****Year: 2019****Introduction**

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 18-02, taking into consideration ICCAT Rec. 16-24, Libya presents its Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Farming, Inspection and Capacity Management plan for the 2019 fishing season.

ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures have been adopted in local legislation and have proven to be effective enabling CPC-Libya to manage this fishery effectively and in respect of pertinent ICCAT recommendations.

The Total Allowable Catch (including dead discards) allocated to Libya for the season 2019 amounts to 2,060 tons.

Libya shall have no trap and farming activity in fishing season 2019.

Libya is fully committed to conduct this fishing season in line with the pertinent ICCAT resolutions and recommendations.

**1. Fishing plan****1.1 Fishing Vessels**

Fourteen (14) purse-seiners will participate in E-BFT catching for the 2019 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and shall be allocated individual quotas accordingly.

During the 2019 BFT season no long liners and recreational fishing vessels will participate.

The total number of 'Other' vessels that will participate in the 2019 BFT fishing season shall be fourteen (14); they will have no fishing gear on board and their sole purpose shall be the towing of cages and/or providing other support services.

**1.2 Methodology used for quota allocation and management**

Individual quotas for each of the authorized vessel will be distributed in accordance with national distribution criteria.

Fishing vessels shall have the right to transfer their individual quota to other fishing vessels.

Rec. 18-02 has allocated a Total Allowable Catch of 2,060 t to Libya for 2019 [Rec. 18-02, para. 5]. 2,044 t shall be distributed to the 14 (fourteen) purse-seiners over 24m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2019 and 16 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets.

<i><b>Fishing groups/ Authorized catching vessels</b></i>	<i><b>Allocated quota</b></i>	<i><b>Original Quota</b></i>
Fourteen purse seiners: 24-40m	2,044 t	2,060 t

The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline [Rec. 18-02, para 50], and any changes to these vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) between the authorized fishing vessels shall be allowed.

No JFOs with other CPCs are envisaged for 2019.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC action taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Masters of vessels active in the BFT fishery shall maintain a bound/electronic logbook and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 18-02. In accordance with Para 74 of Rec. 18-02 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.	Art. 20/ Decree #205/2013 and formal adoption of ICCAT Rec 18-02 in Dec 2018	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fishery openings (para 29-32)</b>	Purse-seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May - 1 July) - By derogation purse-seiners fishing in FAO zones 37.3.1 and 37.3.2 shall be authorized to fish in the period 15 May – 1 July. This shall be applicable to a maximum of three vessels selling their catches to farms of CPCs in the above mentioned zones. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Re. 18-02, Libya may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven. Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Para 75 of Rec. 18-02.	Decree #205/2013 and formal adoption of ICCAT Rec 18-02 in Dec 2018	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum Size (para 34-36)</b>	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or less than 115cm fork length is prohibited as per para 34 of Rec. 18-02.  Any incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg and shall be counted on Libyan quota.	Art. 15/ Decree #205/2013 and formal adoption of ICCAT Rec. 18-02 in Dec 2018	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Libyan fishing vessels should, where possible release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. 1.5 t shall be reserved for by-catch.  Otherwise the amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately. All by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Libya.	Decree #205/2013 and formal adoption of 18-02 in Dec 2018	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC action taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
5	<b>Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Decree #205/2013	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Transshipment at sea is prohibited.  BFT Fishing vessels shall only land BFT catches in ports designated by Fishery Authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli, Misurata and Tobruk) ports.  All vessels entering any of these ports for landing shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities).  All landings of BFT shall be inspected by Port and Fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report.	Art. 22/ Decree #205/2013 and formal adoption of ICCAT Rec 18-02 in Dec 2018	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All fishing vessels and Other vessels active in BFT fishing shall be equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the Authorization period.  Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every hour (1) and any interruption of transmission will be acted upon immediately to investigate and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs vessel will be recalled to port.	Decree #205/2013/ Art. 18 (transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS centers shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and authority.
8	<b>CPC Observer (para 83)</b>	National observers shall cover 100% activity of towing and auxiliary vessels (BFT - Other Vessels).  No national observers onboard of catching vessels.	Art. 14/Decree #205/2013	
9	<b>Regional Observer (para 84)</b>	Regional observers shall be placed on board all catching vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2019 on a full deployment (100%) basis.	Art. 14/Decree #205/2013	
10	<b>Use of aircraft (para 48)</b>	Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.	Art. 10/Decree #205/2013	
11	<b>Designated Ports (para 69-70)</b>	The Designated ports are Tripoli As per CP24 Al Khoms, Misurata Tobruk		

## 2. Capacity Management Plan (para 18-23)

Over the past years Libya had reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with SCRS recommendations.

Having taken into account the increase in TAC and the efforts to develop the fishing industry in a country which is slowly but steadily working its way out of a period of instability CPC-Libya shall, in terms of para 22 of Rec. 18-02, adjust its fishing capacity in a manner commensurate with the 'best catch rates' indicated by SCRS and the allocated quota to the particular fishing gear (**Table 1**).

The Total Allowable Catch (including dead discards) allocated to Libya for the season 2019 amounts to 2,060 tons of which 2,044 t will be allotted to purse-seiners of 24-40m and consequently Libya will increase this purse-seine fishing fleet to 14 vessels and shall be allocated individual quotas accordingly. During the 2019 BFT season no longliners and recreational fishing vessels will participate.

Libya shall have no trap and farming activity in fishing season 2019.

### **3. Annual Farming Management Plan (para 8; 24 -27)**

Libya shall not have any farming activities in 2019.

### **4. Monitoring, Control and Fishery Inspection Plan (para 73, 97, 99, 103, 104)**

#### **4.1 National Inspection**

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. #14/1989, Decree #205/2013, transposing Rec. 14-04/para 97/Annex (7) and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act. #229/2005 are the legal instruments which define the activities and actions which are to be considered infringements of fishery policy.

Fishing Inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personnel and in coordination with Port Authority.

Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of fishery Authority.

Central Control Room shall be operational during the 2019 BFT fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

The above-mentioned laws envisage the imposition of sanctions and penalties and other severe provisions such as loss of license or arrest of vessel in cases of infringements.

#### **4.2 Measures to compliance with quotas**

- The Fishery Authority will set up a Control Unit on a 24 x 7 basis during the fishing season.
- Operators and Masters of the authorized fishing vessels shall adhere to Rec. 18-02 para. 63, 65 and 66 and Section A of Annex 2 of said Rec. 18-02 as also para 86-93 (including Annex 4 and Annex 8) where transfers of live fish are concerned.
- Operators and Masters of authorized BFT-Other vessels shall adhere to Rec. 18-02 para 64 and Sections B, C, D of Annex 2 of said Rec. 18-02 and Annex 4 where vessels towing cages are concerned.
- Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.
- Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with ROPs on board fishing vessels.
- All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.
- All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.
- Catching vessels shall be authorized to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

### **4.3 Enforcement of Fishing Plan**

#### *Regulations*

Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, livestock and marine wealth) #205/2013 amending the Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

Other official Acts organize and manage BFT Licenses.

#### *Licensing*

Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery Authority based upon Decree #205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2019 specifying the season dates and minimum sizes as per Rec. 18-02.

\* Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Med. Sea, Art. 3/Decree #205/2013).

\* Individual Quota allocated Acc. (Art. 11/Decree #205/2013).

\* Logbook required on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree #205/2013).

#### *Imposing Sanction*

Any non-compliance to the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree #205/2013/Art. 17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of individual quota).

#### *Market Measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, landings, imports, exports of dead BFT or transfers of live BFT to cages shall only be allowed if accompanied by accurate, complete and validated BCD/eBCD (Art. 21 & 24/Decree #205/2013).

#### *Sampling requirements*

All catch transfers will be documented by video footage as indicated in Annex 8 of Rec. 18-02.

At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred could be randomly sampled and killed.

### **4.4 Joint International Inspection (para. 109-112)**

Libya shall not participate in the scheme of Joint International Inspection.

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TUNA VESSEL FLEET						Fleet (vessels)								Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PS (24-40) m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	14	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	696	696	696	697	697	
PS<24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total PS fleet</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>697</b>	
Longliner >40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	
LL (24-40) m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner <24m		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total LL fleet</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total fleet capc</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>697</b>	
<b>Quota</b>														1237	947	581	903	903	938	938	1107	1323	1588	1846	2060	
<b>Adjusted quota</b>	Note: 14.5 t for accidental catches in artisanal fisheries and 1.5 t for by-catches.													1237	1092	726	903*	903	938	938	1157	1373	1638	1797	2044	
Allowance for Sport / recreation														0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Under/ Over Capacity														-536	-535	-802	-192	-43	67	67	461	677	942	1,100	1,347	

**MOROCCO****Year of Fishing Plan: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)*****a) Introduction***

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last annual meeting held in Dubrovnik in November 2018, the 2019 national quota, which was fixed at 2,948 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, traps, purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna, artisanal boats and small coastal vessels that take bluefin tuna as by-catch.

***b) Details of Fishing plan***

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 35 to 45a of ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 amending Recommendation 17-07, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 17 traps
- 2 tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m, and
- Small coastal vessels and artisanal boats authorised by the Moroccan administration to take bluefin tuna as by-catch during its migration period, and their catches will be counted, as in the past, against the quota allocated to their segment. The fishing gears used by these small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are longline and line. The catches of these vessels are reported in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2019 fishing seasons is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2447.6 t
- Tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m: 141.4 t
- Artisanal boats and small coastal vessels (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 342 t.
- A reserve if set aside for the case of overshoot of the allocated quota: 17 t.

Three bluefin tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year in accordance with conditions and specific methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These three farming facilities are linked to authorised traps and vessels.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna management plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Morocco undertakes to implement all provisions of Recommendation 18-02 amending Recommendation 17-07 during the 2019 fishing campaign which will start in April for the traps segment.

The fishing plan will ensure compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Communication and reporting of catches (para 63-68)</b>	Tuna purse seine vessels have a logbook. Authorised catches of small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system. Trap catches are included in fishing logbooks as well as in the eBCD system. For the fourth consecutive year, implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD. Transmission of weekly and monthly bluefin tuna catches. Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/19 of 15 February 2019.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fishery openings (para 29-32)</b>	Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing will be carried out by two purse seiners: - 1 purse seine vessel will operate in the East Mediterranean within the joint fishing framework from 15 May to 1 July 2019. - 1 purse seine vessel will fish bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea limited to the waters under Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction from 1 May to 15 June. - Bluefin tuna trap fishing is authorised from 1 April to 31 July.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/19 of 15 February 2019.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm.  All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.	Ministerial Order No. 1154-88 of 3 October 1988 (as amended and supplemented), which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters.  This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area.	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	Vessels that take bluefin tuna as by-catch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 20% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens. By-catch (20%) taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats,	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/19 of 15 February 2019.	

		using longline and handline are calculated on an annual basis, and are counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.		
5	<b>Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	None.		
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	<p>Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.</p> <p>Transshipment is authorised only at the ports designated to this effect, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendations.</p>	<p>Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) forming the regulation on maritime fishing. Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing published in the Official Bulletin dated 17 May. Decree No. 2.17.456 of 15 March 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Decree No. 1-73-255 dated 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p>	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	<p>Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data of fishing vessels of 15 m or more registered in the ICCAT record start at least 5 days before the authorised period and continue 5 days after this period, unless the vessel is deregistered from the list of authorised vessels.</p>	<p>Decree No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I 1431 (17 March 2010) establishing the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite</p>	

		The transmission of this VMS data is guaranteed:  Every hour for purse seiners. Every two hours for other vessels.	communications to transmit data. (BO. No. 5826 of 1 April 2010) Decree No. 3338-10 of 16 December 2010 on the fishing vessel positioning and tracking device as amended and supplemented.	
8	<b>CPC Observer programme (para 83)</b>	Presence of onboard observers. Towing vessel: 100% Trap: harvest 100%		
9	<b>Regional Observer programme (para 84)</b>	Presence of onboard observers: Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100%. Caging and harvesting in farms: 100%. Tuna purse seiners: 100%.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

## 2. Annual Fishing Capacity Management Plan (para 18-23)

### 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27)

Live tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year based on the specific conditions and methods that will be determined by the administration in accordance with the regulatory provisions in place and in accordance with the conditions laid down in ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 which repeals ICCAT Recommendation 17-07.

In addition, it should be signaled that pursuant to the provisions of Recommendation 18-02 (para 8; 24-27), carryover of caged live bluefin tuna is not authorised.

Morocco's farming capacity management plan for 2019 is as follows:

- Authorised farming facilities: 3 farms;
- These three farms are associated to traps and authorised vessels (as indicated in page 1).

<b>Farm name</b>	<b>Nº FFB ICCAT</b>	<b>Wild input (t) *</b>	<b>Capacity (t)</b>
BLUE FARM	AT001MAR00002	2,000	2,500
FARM 2	TBD	300	1,000
FARM 3	TBD	306	800
TOTAL		2,606	4,300

\*Approximate and provisional estimation.

- Total amount per farm carried over from previous year: 0

This capacity farming management plan may be reviewed and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat on 1 June at the latest, and in compliance with the provisions of para 24, Rec. 18-02.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national regulation and ICCAT Recommendations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishery activities in 2019.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Recommendation 18-02. This methodology therefore includes measures related to the following actions:

- Maintain records for monitoring prior notifications to port entry transmitted by all catch, transformation and support vessels that carry onboard catches equivalent or superior to three fishes or a ton;
- Monitoring and control of fishing operations in traps, and harvested in traps and fattening farms, in particular through the presence of observers;
- Systematic monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and is an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;
- Monitoring and control of transfer operations and caging operations in farming facilities are supported in particular by the systematic presence of observers, video records of the transfer operations and the stereoscopic camera systems in accordance with the conditions established in Recommendation 18-02;
- Control of live bluefin tuna in a fattening cage by farm in the period from the end of the caging operations to the first caging operation of the following year. This control also concerns the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm.
- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);
- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding catch, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);
- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities upon which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

##### ***b) Joint International inspection Plan (plan 109-112)***

The Kingdom of Morocco has two vessels that could operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel.

It should be noted that these two vessels will embark ICCAT observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

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Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
Type	Best catch de rates fined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40 m	70,70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2		70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	70,7	141,4	141,4	141,4	141,4		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49,78	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		149,4	149,4	0	99,6	0	49,8	49,8	49,8	0	0	0	0		
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33,68	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	33,7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total purse seine fleet		4	5	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		220,1	253,8	70,7	170,3	70,7	120,5	120,5	120,5	141,4	141,4	141,4	141,4		
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5,68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Baitboat	19,8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trap	130	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	15	17		1685	1909	1460	1011	1011	1123	1123	1235	1348	1632	2128	2447,6		
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other (please specify) By-catch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats.		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	342*		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		19	22	14	12	10	12	12	13	14	14	17	19		1925,8	2183,5	1560,7	1214,3	1211,7	1383,5	1270,47	1464,69	1639,4	1969,4	2541,4	2931		
Quota		2729	2088,26	1279,96	1223,07	1223,07	1270,47	1270,47	1500,01	1792,98	2152,71	2578	2948		2729	2088,26	1279,96	1223,07	1223,07	1270,47	1270,47	1500,01	1792,98	2152,71	2578	2948		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2729	2400	1606,96	1238,33	1223,07	1270,47	1270,47	1500,01	1792,98	2152,71	2578	2948		2729	2400	1606,96	1238,33	1223,07	1270,47	1270,47	1500,01	1792,98	2152,71	2578	2931		
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Under/overcapacity		0	0	0	0	13,07	20,47	0	35,01	19,98	183,31	37	17		0	0	0	0	13,07	20,47	35,47	35,01	19,98	183,31	37	17 **		

\* This quantity corresponds to bluefin tuna by-catch taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats (as indicated in page 1).

\*\* This quantity, deducted from the national quota, is set aside for possible quota overshooting and possible dead bluefin tuna discards.

**NORWAY****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

According to Rec 18-02 paragraph 5, Norway has been allocated a quota of 239 tonnes in 2019. Norway has set aside a group quota of 187 tonnes for purse seiners, a group quota of 24 tonnes for longliners. Norway will open up for a sports and recreational fishery for the purpose of "tag and release" in 2019 and has set aside 1 tonne for this activity. Norway has set aside a quota of 27 tonnes for by-catch.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Norway intend to authorise four purse seiners and four longliners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2019. Four vessels can also be authorised for a sports and recreational fishery. The vessels which will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2019 have not been selected yet. Hence, the length of the vessels is not decided. The individual vessel quota will be set when the vessels have been selected. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 paragraph 50, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorised to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 paragraph 17.

The Norwegian purse seine and longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from its electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The sport and recreational fishery will be a "tag and release" where the vessels are required to communicate the same information as the purse seine and longline vessels, as well as stay in close touch with the researchers at the Institute of Marine Research. The sport and recreational fishery will only take place if the master of the vessels can document that they are able to tag the bluefin tuna with spaghetti marks, and that they have received the necessary licences to do so.

Norway has, as mentioned above, set aside a quota of 27 tonnes for by-catch of bluefin tuna. If a vessel has not been allocated a quota, or if the quota has already been consumed, the master of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of by-catch of live bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota. By-catch shall never exceed 10 bluefin tunas, and by any means 20 % in weight of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. The reason for this regulations is that by-catch of bluefin tuna is regularly caught when Norwegian purse seiners and trawlers are fishing for mackerel and blue whiting. These vessels have large catches thus it is difficult to set a percentage of by-catch that will not be too high.

All by-catch of bluefin tuna shall immediately be reported to the Norwegian FMC. The FMC will alert inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries who will initiate the appropriate follow up action.

The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18- 02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	<p>63. The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook</p> <p>64. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.</p> <p>65. The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from its electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>66. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Norwegian FMC by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>67. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>68. Catching vessels other than purse seiners will be required to transmit to the Norwegian FMC by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 11 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 11 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements)</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements)</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	These regulations will be adopted when ICCAT has approved the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan.

2	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	<p>29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 15. November, in accordance with Rec 18-02 paragraph 29.</p> <p>30. If purse seine vessels have been unable to utilize fishing due to bad weather conditions, in accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Norway may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p> <p>31. Bluefin tuna fishing with a longline catching vessel over 24 m is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 1 August to 31 January in accordance with Rec 18-02 paragraph 31.</p> <p>32. Other than purse seiners and large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m, Norway intend to establish a fishing season for longliners under 24 meters in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 13. May to 31. December 2019</p> <p>The fishing season for the sports and recreational fishery will be from 31 May to 31 December 2019.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 3.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 4.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 4 and § 5.</p>	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	<p>34. The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>Nevertheless, for catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-</p>	<p>The Norwegian Regulations related to Sea-Water Fisheries and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 17.</p>	

		<p>115 cm may be authorised according to paragraph 37.</p> <p>35. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna and no Norwegian longliners are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>36. Not applicable. Reference is made to paragraph 35 above.</p>		
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	<p>38. Norway has allocated a quota of 27 tonnes for by-catch of bluefin tuna. The level of by-catch shall never exceed 10 bluefin tunas and by any means a maximum 20 % in weight of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip.</p> <p>All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p>If no quota has been allocated to the fishing vessel concerned, or if the quota has already been consumed, the catching vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of the bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and deducted from the Norwegian quota, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. The information on such quantities will be reported on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p> <p>For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.</p>	Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 6.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	<p>39. Norway will issue fishing authorisations to a limited number (maximum four) of vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing for "tag and release" activity.</p> <p>40. The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed. The Norwegian legislation will contain measures which prohibits sports and recreational vessel to land more than one tuna per vessel per day.</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 §5</p> <p>The Norwegian Regulations related to Sea-Water Fisheries and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 9.</p>	

		<p>41. Norway will prohibit the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing.</p> <p>42. Data, including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing, will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for the preceding year by 1 July each year. This will be a requirement in the authorisation issued for this purpose.</p> <p>43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries will be counted against the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>44. Norway will take measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. It will be clear in the permit (authorization) The authorisation will contain measures stating that live tuna must be released. The fishermen must report information on when and where they catch tuna. They will lose the authorisation if they do not follow the requirement.</p> <p>45. Norway will open up for a sports and recreational fishery for the purpose of "tag and release". Norway will follow the description and associated measures and obligations that is required and described in paragraph 39-45. 1 tonne of the total quota is set aside if any bluefin tuna die during tag and release fishery.</p> <p>46. Norway will, upon request from ICCAT make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.</p> <p>47. The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in rec 18-02 paragraph 47.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 9</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 9</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 9</p>	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Not applicable. All transshipments of bluefin tuna are prohibited.	The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 12.	
7	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of	The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 11. The Norwegian Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (log book requirements).	

		<p>VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>VMS will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, every two hours for longline vessels, and every hour for purse seine vessels.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 5 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after its period of authorization.</p>		
8	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	<p>83.</p> <p>The longline vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will be required to have a national observer on board during 20% of the time the vessels are targeting bluefin tuna.</p> <p>The Norwegian longliners will only be authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone.</p> <p>The observer tasks will be carried out by inspectors from the Norwegian Surveillance Services, which are part of the Directorate of Fisheries. Collecting scientific data are among the main tasks of these inspectors, and they are trained to carry out scientific work as well as monitoring, control and surveillance activities.</p> <p>Well in advance of the Norwegian longliner starting to fish for bluefin tuna, it will be required to submit a plan including information regarding the planned start-up date, area and period for this longline bluefin tuna fishery. Based on this plan, the Norwegian Surveillance Services will organize their observer coverage, in order to ensure that they cover at least 20 % of the days the vessels are fishing for bluefin tuna, as well as ensuring representative temporal and spatial coverage to collect adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, in line with recommendation 18-02 and other relevant recommendations.</p>		

		<p>The longliners will be required to keep close contact with our Surveillance Services when fishing for bluefin tuna, to ensure that the before mentioned requirements relating to observer coverage are fulfilled.</p> <p>As already mentioned above, the vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour as well as daily reports from the electronic logbooks to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The Surveillance Services have access to this information in real time.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will advise the Norwegian Surveillance Services on relevant training and sampling methods to collect biological data in accordance with Recommendation 18-02.</p> <p>In addition, both the longliners and the purse seiners authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, can be instructed to carry an observer from the Institute of Marine Research or to collect biological data.</p>		
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The four purse seiners authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to carry an ICCAT Regional Observer 100 % of the time they are targeting bluefin tuna, and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Fishing teams that are allowed to participate in the sports and recreational fishery must, before the fishery begins, document that they have been authorized to tag the bluefin tuna by the necessary responsible authorities.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 § 9.	

In addition to the above, the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2019 §17 include a general provision requiring the vessels to comply with all relevant ICCAT requirements.

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

According to Recommendation 18-02 by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2019 is 239 tonnes.

In light of the increase of the Norwegian quota, the fishery in 2019 is planned to take place with four purse seiners and four longliners. Hence, no capacity reduction is foreseen.

As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. Each purse seine vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum up to maximum 52 tonnes, and each longliner will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum 6 tonnes. The total allocation for the four purse seiners will thus be 187 tonnes whereas the total allocation for the four longliners will be 24

tonnes, 27 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna. Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 18-02 paragraph 17, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

### **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable. Norway does not have any bluefin tuna farms.

### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

#### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 18-02. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) at the Directorate of Fisheries will monitor the bluefin tuna fishery.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as by-catch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 5 % of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, whereby the inspectors shall monitor the entire landing. This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left onboard once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

As the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be limited to four purse seiners and four longliners, the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 111 does not apply.

The vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna can, in addition to the requirement of carrying an ICCAT Regional Observer on board, be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.

Furthermore, the vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 18-02 paragraph 48, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 18-12 amending recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2019 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

#### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2019.

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity															
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>1,2</sup>	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7											1	1													70,7					
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78							1	1	1	1	1	3								49,78	49,78	49,78	49,78	99,56	149,34					
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																														
Purse seine total fleet								1	1	1	1	2	4								49,78	49,78	49,78	49,78 <sup>2</sup>	99,56	220,04					
Longliner over 40m	25																														
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68								1		1	0										5,68		5,68	0	0					
Longliner less than 24m	5												4																		
Total longline fleet									1		1	0	4									5,68		5,68	0	20					
Baitboat	19.8																														
Handline	5																														
Trawler	10																														
Trap	130																														
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																														
Other (please specify)	5																														
Total fleet/fishing capacity								1	2	1	2	2	8								49,78	55,46	49,78	55,46	120,48	240,04					
Quota								30.97	36,57	43,71	52,48	104	239								30.97	36,57	43,71	52,48	104	239					
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										212 <sup>3</sup>					
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)								0	0	0	0	0	4													1*					
Under/ overcapacity																					18,81	18,89	6,07	2,98	-16,48	-29,04 <sup>4</sup>					

<sup>1</sup> The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. At the 2016 annual meeting of ICCAT Norway asked the SCRS whether the figures for the Mediterranean Sea were automatically transferable to the North East Atlantic. The SCRS could not provide an answer to this question. Hence it is questionable whether it is correct to fill the Mediterranean figures in the table.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the vessels which will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2019 have not been selected yet. Hence, the length of the vessels in the table are preliminary

<sup>3</sup> Norway has set aside a quota of 27 tonnes for by-catch in 2019.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with Rec. 18-02 paragraph 22 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 does not apply to Norway.

\* Although it is not mandatory, Norway has set aside a quota of 1 tonne for sport and recreational fishery for the purpose of tag and release.

**SYRIA****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps**

- In accordance with the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission which was held in Dubrovnik (Croatia), from 12-19 November 2018, and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2019, Syria has an annual quota of 73 tons of Bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch (Rec. 18-02).
- The quota will be caught by two fishing vessels recorded in the ICCAT list, the quota will be divided equally between the two vessels. 1 t of quota will be set aside for any possible by-catch.
- Each year, fisheries authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) announces terms and conditions for BFT fishing season based on ICCAT recommendations.
- Special fishing license shall be issued by the fisheries authority for the vessels authorized to fish Bluefin tuna in 2019.
- The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
- The authorized period for fishing is from 15 May to 1 July 2019.
- No joint fishing operations will be allowed.
- Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
- No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria
- Longliner, baitboat, hand boat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria for catching Bluefin tuna.
- Fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiners shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishing in Syria is traditional in territorial water with no commercial fishing operations, and Bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fishermen.
- Fishing operations shall be monitored by fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).
- ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of BFT catch at the time.
- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.
- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour. VMS data will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.
- Fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.
- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a daily catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight.
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

**2. Annual fishing capacity management plan**

- Two Syrian vessels are recorded in ICCAT list of vessels so far, therefore the two fishing vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2019 to catch Syrian allocated quota, and whole quota shall be divided between the two vessels taking into consideration that the fishing effort of two catching vessels are commensurate with the Bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2019.

**3. Annual farming management plan**

- There is no facility for farming BFT in Syrian water yet.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection***

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer for each vessel (100% coverage).
- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations and record some scientific information.
- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports.
- In case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator.

##### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection***

- Two Syrian vessels are recorded in ICCAT list of vessels, therefore the two fishing vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2019 to catch Syrian quota, and no Joint Scheme of International Inspection is applied.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	<b>Catch recording and reporting</b>	The master of catching vessel shall maintain a bound fishing logbook of his operation in accordance with recommendations. The fishing operator shall by electronic or other means report a daily BFT Catch (including zero catch report) Syria will submit weekly and monthly catch report to ICCAT, as well as date of closing the fisheries.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing	
2.	<b>Fisheries openings</b>	The fishing gear that will be used is purs The authorized period for fishing is from 15 May to 1 July 2019. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Syria may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (from 15 May to 1 July 2019).	
3.	<b>Minimum size</b>	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited. Fish below the minimum size that are discarded dead shall be counted against the Syrian quota.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
4.	<b>By-catch</b>	Fisheries authority prohibits vessels without BFT quota from catching transshipping or landing of BFT. Previously no by-catch was recorded of BFT. 1 t of quota will be set aside for any possible by-catches. Any by-catch shall be reported to ICCAT. If any by-catch occurred it must be deducted from Syria's quota.	Terms and conditions of the General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
5.	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries</b>	No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria	Not applicable	
6.	<b>Transshipment</b>	Fishing vessel shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. No transshipment operations reported in Syria. Syria will inform ICCAT of any transshipment operations.	Terms and conditions of the General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
7.	<b>VMS</b>	The vessel must be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour. Fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and will transmit the VMS data to ICCAT Secretariat.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing	
8.	<b>CPC Observer programmes</b>	The fishing operations will be Monitored throughout the fishing season by controller observers (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) which they will embark on boards of tuna vessels. The controller observers will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and insuring the compliance fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing. Purse seine vessel will carry national observer during all operations (100% coverage)	
9.	<b>Regional observers programme</b>	An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100% on purse seines vessels authorized to catch BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	Not applicable		

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																										
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	
Longliner over 40m	25																										
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
Total longline fleet																											
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36
<b>Quota</b>															0	0	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.4	56.91	66	73
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																										72*
<b>Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)</b>															0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Under/overcapacity</b>															0	0	0	0	-33.58	-33.58	-33.58	-5.97	-13.72	-23.23	-32.32	-4.64

Syria did not use its quotas of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

\* 1 t has been set aside for by-catch.

**TUNISIA****Year of Fishing Plan: 2019**

Tunisia hereby presents its fishing, and fishing and farming capacity management, inspection and farming management plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT, the quota for Tunisia in 2019 was fixed at 2,400 t.

**1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels (para 16-17)**

In preparation for the 2019 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT. On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia established a fishing plan and will allocate individual quotas to 44 purse seine vessels to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2019.

All Tunisian fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna use purse seine nets i.e. tuna purse seiners.

The Tunisian administration will issue fishing permits for these vessels for 2019 and these will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

Management of fishing activity will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02), and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended and/or supplemented, in particular by Laws No. 2013-34 and No. 2018-30 and their implementing texts, in particular, the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013).

Tunisia's TAC, which is set at 2,400 t for 2019, will be distributed as follows:

- a. 2376 t (i.e. 99%) for tuna purse seiners. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be reported to ICCAT by the deadlines for submission set out in paragraph 50 of Rec. 18-02.
- b. 24 t (i.e. 1%) for by-catch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 38 of Rec. 18-02.

**Table 1** below summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Catch recording and reporting will comply with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 (para 63-68). Catching vessel masters will maintain all the onboard documents required including a bound logbook or in electronic format in which the operations performed will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 (Annex 2).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	The purse seine fishing season is from 26 May to 1 July 2019. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Tunisia may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by Decision of	(Decision being amended).

		days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.	10 June 2013.	
3	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	It is prohibited to catch bluefin tuna with a unit weight less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm calculated from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail. However, exceptionally, by-catch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm may be authorised. By-catch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Tunisia's quota.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
4	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	24 t will be set aside for by-catch. If by-catch exceeds the 20% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the total level of by-catch is surpassed, these are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 28 September 2008 on fishing regulation.	
5	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Sports and recreational fishing will not be permitted.	-	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels can only tranship bluefin tuna catches in the ports registered with ICCAT with prior authorisation in accordance with Rec. 18-02 (paragraph 77, 78 and 80).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
7.	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	All vessels participating in the bluefin tuna campaign with a length of more than 15 m are equipped with a VMS system, in accordance with Recommendation 18-02 (para 105) and current domestic legislation.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as supplemented by Law 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law 2018-30 of 23 May 2018. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic	

		Transmission of positions of catching, towing and support vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The positions will be communicated instantaneously to the ICCAT Secretariat every hour by the purse seiners in accordance with Recommendation 18-10.	Resources and Fisheries of 21 May 2008 on organization of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of the 13 April 2010 and by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observer programmes (para 83)</b>	The Tunisian administration will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents on board all towing vessels i.e. 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-02 (§ 83).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	The Tunisian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all transfers from one farming facility to another, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 18-02 (para 84).		
<b>10</b>	<i>Other requirements, such as Scientific programme</i>	In addition to the data collected by national observers and sampling programmes, a scientific programme is envisaged in particular onboard authorised vessels and on authorised farms to provide the information requested by the SCRS.		

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Adjustment of Tunisian fishing capacity for 2019 (**Table 2**).

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate**

In accordance with paragraphs 24 to 27 of Rec. 18-02, the 2019 live bluefin tuna input capacity will be adjusted to 2400 t, i.e. proportional to the quota allocated to Tunisia for 2019.

Six (6) companies envisage engaging in operations in 2019 (**Table 3**). If the farming plan is amended, ICCAT will be notified of the amendment within the required timeframe (**Table 3**).

It is authorised to carryover live bluefin tunas that are not harvested. The carryover of live bluefin tuna will be placed into separate cages from the new catches of the following season.

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 (para 8), in addition to the control and inspection provisions set out in paragraphs 54, 103 and 104, additional control measures will be implemented (see paragraph 4).

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

In accordance with the domestic regulation in force, at-sea inspections in the fishing areas during the campaign will be carried out by permanent members of staff of the fisheries guard and coastal surveillance. They will be responsible for monitoring and assessment of compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Requests for entry and use of Tunisian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be reviewed and granted, if appropriate, by the relevant coastal and port authorities.

In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by certified agents of the relevant authority.

All landings and harvesting operations will be controlled by certified agents of the relevant authority.

In addition, control measures are provided for in Rec. 18-02 (paras 83 and 84) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners, from caging on farms, from one farm to another,
- 100% of harvesting operations.

All monitoring, control and surveillance operations will be ensured in accordance with Rec. 18-02 (para 97 and 99).

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 (para 103), control operations will be carried out by certified agents of the relevant authority in farming cages between the end of caging and the first caging of the following year. These control operations will be carried out for at least 10% of fish in farming cages.

In accordance with Rec. 18-02 (para 9) an in-depth assessment will be carried out of all live bluefin tuna carried over to farms.

##### ***b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)***

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 18-02, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Onboard inspectors will ensure implementation of inspection and boarding activities for all authorised Tunisian and foreign vessels. The operations period will last for 2 months and concerns in particular the 2019 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents;
- Catch activities and transfer into towing vessel cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential infringements of the conservation and management measures of Rec. 18-02.

#### **5. Designated ports (para 69-70)**

See list of ports (CP24-BFT.)

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>													<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	70.7	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	24	29	35	1194.72	1194.72	1194.7	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	1443.62	1742.3	
Purse seiners less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	8	9	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	101.04	101.04	269.44	303.12	
<b>Total purse seine fleet</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total capacity of fishing fleet</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1809.3</b>	<b>1809.3</b>	<b>1809.3</b>	<b>1080.5</b>	<b>1029.3</b>	<b>1029.3</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1228.4</b>	<b>1295.76</b>	<b>1295.76</b>	<b>1713.06</b>	<b>2045.42</b>	
<b>Vessel quota</b>		2254.48	1735.9	1064.9	1017.6	1017.6	1057	1057	1248	1462	1755	2093.85	2376	2254.48	1735.87	1064.9	1017.6	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97	1462.17	1755.18	2093.85	2376	
<b>By-catch</b>										29.83	35.82	21.15	24									29.8342	35.82	21.15	24	
<b>TAC</b>										1492	1791	2115	2400									1492	1791	2115	2400	
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		2364.48	1937.9	1109.5	860.18	1017.6	1057	1057	1248	1462	1755	2115	2400	2364.48	1937.87	1109.5	860.18	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97			<b>2093.85</b>	<b>2376</b>	
<b>Under/ overcapacity</b>																	-62.98	-11.72	27.72	27.72	19.57	166.406	459.42	380.79	330.58	

**Table 3.** Adjustment of farming capacity - Tunisia 2019.

<b>ICCAT No.</b>	<b>Farming Facility Owner</b>	<b>Input capacity (t)</b>	<b>Farming capacity (t)</b>
AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi sallem	400	750
AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	500	1,000
AT001TUN00003	SMT Condition	500	1,000
AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	400	750
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	300	500
AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji et Mohamed Chiha	300	500

## **TURKEY**

### **Fishing Plan Year: 2019**

#### **1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

Turkey will implement a total of 1,880 t catch limit for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2019 as allocated by ICCAT Recommendation [18-02].

The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 18-02, have been transposed into Turkish domestic law by “Ministerial Communiqué Regarding E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading”.

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Notifications and Ministerial Communiqué Regarding E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.

MoAF shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2019. All fishing vessels authorized by MoAF shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

The authorized BFT fishing season will be implemented from 15 May to 1 July in accordance with Parag. 29 of Rec. 18-02.

Fishing permits issued by MoAF shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2019 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline of April 30, fishing permits are planned to be granted to 29 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoAF. Similarly, 60 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 29 E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until April 30 deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2019 E-BFT fishing season.

MoAF plans to allocate 90% of the total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carry-over of unused quota is not authorized.

A specific quota level, which is of 10% of the total shall be allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries as well as incidental and by-catches; 50 t of which shall be allocated for by catch.

All by-catches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota dedicated.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	Shall be implemented in parallel with para. 63-68 of Rec. 18-02.  Both bound logbook and electronic logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	Fishing for E-BFT by purse-seiner is allowed for the period between 15 May - 1 July 2019 in parallel with para 29 of Rec. 18-02. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 18-02, Turkey may possibly extend its fishing period for the affected vessels, for the equivalent number of lost days, up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the Vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs concerned, evidence of inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	Necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm shall be taken. By-catch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Turkey's quota.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	50 t has been allocated for by-catch. The level of by-catch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip. Whether it is retained or not all by-catches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for	Ministerial Notification	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited.</p> <p>The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.</p> <p>Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Turkey's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.</p>	Regulating Amateur & Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
6	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	<p>Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited.</p> <p>E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purposes.</p> <p>In case of dead E-BFT derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.</p> <p>The designated ports shall be open for 24 hours and shall be ready upon request of landing from the BFT fishing vessel, prior to at least 2 hours of estimated time of arrival.</p> <p>The landing ports will be duly inspected by Ministerial inspectors on daily basis and upon any request of landing.</p> <p>The following ports have been designated by MoAF for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adana Province: Karatas fishing port</li> <li>2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port</li> <li>3. Mersin Province: Erdemli fishing port</li> <li>4. Hatay Province: Iskenderun fishing port</li> <li>5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port Gulpınar fishing port</li> <li>6. Istanbul Province: Gurpinar fishing port Tuzla fishing port</li> <li>7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port</li> </ol>	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2019 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoAF. The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall be started at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall be continued at least 5 days after their period of authorisation. Position reporting in every one hour shall be required from the authorized fishing vessels.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	Presence of “CPC Observers” on E-BFT Towing Vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2019.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	100% Coverage of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations) is mandatory.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Usage of stereoscopic cameras in the farms shall be provided.	Ministerial notification regulating commercial fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

## 2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Fishing permits are planned to be granted to 29 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoAF. Similarly, 60 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 29 E-BFT catching vessels (shown in attached table) (if no conceivable changes happen until 30 April deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2019 E-BFT fishing season).

## 3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

With reference to Parag. 8 and 24 to 27, annual farming management plan has been provided below:

<b>Farming capacity for 2019</b>			
<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB*</i>	<i>Capacity(t)*</i>	<i>Input capacity(t)*</i>
Turkey	Farm 1	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 2	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 3	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 4	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 5	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 6	TBD	TBD
Turkey	Farm 7	TBD	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,640</b>	<b>2,338</b>

\*The final version of list and capacities per farms shall reported by 1 June.

#### **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

##### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

##### *Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT fishing activities*

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoAF during 2019 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- will be commissioned by MoFAL to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoAF inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoAF shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landing of dead E-BFT.

Artisanal, coastal fisheries, recreational and sportive fisheries shall be inspected in scope of the same inspection programme by MoAF inspectors in collaboration with TCGC inspectors.

##### *Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations*

MoAF inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

In accordance with Para. 97 of Rec. 18-02 the transfers from cages to farm shall be monitored by stereoscopic cameras as well as conventional cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to MoAF.

Covering 100% of all caging operations; stereoscopic cameras shall be used to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged, in accordance with Parag. 99 of Rec. 18-02. Farm operator shall communicate the results of this programme to MoAF and to the Regional Observer. Those results shall also be communicated to the catching CPC by MOAF.

In accordance with the related provisions of Rec. 18-02; farm authorities shall be allowed to carry-over of non-harvested bluefin tuna during 1-30 April of each year; through internal transfers of non-harvested live bluefin tunas to another empty cage by using stereoscopic cameras, with the presence of Ministerial inspectors. The carry-over shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Farm authorities shall be instructed to conduct random "control transfers" for an amount corresponding to 10% of total E-BFT caged in one cage/cages in their farms; through transferring to another empty cage,

between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. These control transfers shall be video-recorded and record/records shall be provided to MoAF in order to communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat.

***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Turkey plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2019 with 58 Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) Boats, 16 aircraft (planes/helicopters) and 255 inspector staff. Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) to the inspection scheme is expected to conduct some high-sea inspections in the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focused on 2019. In this context, bluefin tuna (E-BFT) fishing and transferring activities, as well as, Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of MoAF and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centers of TCGC.

TCGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of E-BFT Fishing Season.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2018's risk assessment data.

## PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	16	15	16	11		2899	2262	848	919	0	212	0	1131	1131	1061	1131	777	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	3	14	6	18		2439	1693	548	199	548	348	647	0	149	697	299	896	
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seine total fleet		93	66	23	17	11	10	13	16	19	29	22	29		5439	3955	1396	1118	548	560	647	1131	1280	1758	1430	1673	
Longliner over 40m	25																										
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
Total longline fleet																											
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*													138**	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		93	66	23	17	11	10	13	16	19	29	22	29		5439	3955	1396	1118	548	561	647	1131	1281	1757	1430	1811	
Quota															887	683	419	536	536	554	557	1223	1462	1775	1414	1880	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										1830***	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																											
Under/ overcapacity															4552	3272	978	582	12	3,9	90	-92	-136	-17,6	-16	19	

\* Number of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional figures based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will add up by April 30.

\*\* Allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries and incidental catches.

\*\*\* 50 t has been set aside for by-catch.

**CHINESE TAIPEI****Fishing Plan Year: 2019****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

For the purpose of recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT), Chinese Taipei established regulations which prohibit its fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna since 2009, and such regulations have remained in force up to date. Notably, we pay close attention to the Mediterranean Sea, where is the spawning area for E-BFT, hence we require our fishermen should not engage in any fishing activity within this area.

In 2019, our policy towards E-BFT fishery remains the same as that no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention Area. It should also be noted that we review such policy on an annual basis to determine appropriate timing of resuming E-BFT fishery in the coming future.

In addition, our domestic legislation requires fishermen to discard any by-catch of bluefin tuna, record relevant information on the logbooks or E-logbook system, and further report to the Fisheries Agency. To date, this Agency has not received any report noting by-catch of E-BFT from our fishermen or national observers.

With regard to quota management, our initial quota of E-BFT for 2019 is 84 t, 50 t of which is transferred to Korea in accordance with paragraph 5 of ICCAT Rec. 18-02. In case of by-catch, we will deduct the amount from the 34 tons available following deduction of 50 tons transfer.

As mentioned above, our fishing vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna throughout the year 2019 in the ICCAT Convention Area pursuant to our domestic regulations. Therefore, both the total number of vessels engaging in E-BFT fishery and the quota allocated to each vessel are zeros.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna. In case of by-catch, fishermen are required to discard immediately, record relevant information on the logbooks or E-logbook system, and further report to this Agency.	Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation, Article 41	
<b>2</b>	<b>Fisheries openings (para 29-32)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the year 2019.	Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation, Article 41	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minimum size (para 34-36)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, so the requirements for minimum size are not applicable.	Not applicable	
<b>4</b>	<b>By-catch (para 38)</b>	We require our fishermen should discard any by-catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna into the sea immediately, record relevant information on the logbooks or E-logbook system, and further report to this Agency. Any by-catch will be deducted from the 34 tons quota, which is set aside for this purpose.	Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation, Article 41	

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)</b>	We do not have recreational and sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area.	Not applicable	
<b>6</b>	<b>Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, so the requirements for transshipment are not applicable.	Not applicable	
<b>7</b>	<b>VMS (para 105)</b>	We require our fishing vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention Area should equip with an automatic location communicator on board able to transmit at least one vessel position in every hour to our Fisheries Monitoring Centre.	Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation, Article 33	
<b>8</b>	<b>CPC observers programme (para 83)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, so the requirements for national observer are not applicable.	Not applicable	
<b>9</b>	<b>Regional observers programme (para 84)</b>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, so the requirements for regional observer are not applicable.	Not applicable	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>	We prohibit our fishing vessels from catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, so the requirements for tagging are not applicable.	Not applicable	

## **2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)**

Taking consideration of the stock status of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Chinese Taipei has voluntarily prohibited its fishing vessels from catching E-BFT over the past years. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Chinese Taipei reserves its legitimate rights to resume E-BFT fishery in the coming future, once the stock is proved to be recovered. The table recording number of fishing vessels and fishing capacity is attached.

## **3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable**

Not applicable

## **4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan**

### ***a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)***

Even though Chinese Taipei is not a port state bordering the Atlantic Ocean, we require any foreign fishing vessel entering into our ports should report its catches onboard, and currently carry out a minimum of 5% of inspection rate in accordance with our National Plan of Control and Inspection. Up to date, there is no Atlantic bluefin tuna being reported or found.

### ***b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)***

Due to our domestic regulations on the prohibition of catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, the ICCAT scheme of Joint International Inspection is not applicable to Chinese Taipei.

PA2 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – MADRID 2019

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Quota		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	79	84		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29	34		
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Under/ overcapacity		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29	34		

Based on the discussion about how to fill in the row of under/overcapacity at the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2018, we modify the figures in this row by using the adjusted quota minus total fleet/fishing capacity respectively.

## Appendix 5

## Requests for clarification on Rec. 18-02 from the Secretariat and CPCs

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
8	8. Carry-over of non-harvested live bluefin tuna is not authorized unless a reinforced system of control is implemented and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat as an integral part of the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. Such reinforced system shall include at least the provisions defined in paragraphs 54, 103 and 107. Further control measures will be examined at an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 referred to in paragraph 116.	<b>Question from Turkey:</b> There is no clear guidance for traceability of carried over BFTs. CPCs may issue an official document showing that the carried over fish have been controlled and certified.	To be discussed at eBCD working group. Meanwhile, CPCs may indicate in their fishing plans how they intend to implement this.
	AND		
9	9. Farming CPCs shall ensure that, prior to the start of a fishing season, a thorough assessment is made of any live bluefin tuna carried over after bulk-harvests in the farms under their jurisdiction....	<b>Question from Turkey:</b> There is no clear guidance for traceability of carried over BFTs. CPCs may issue an official document showing that the carried over fish have been controlled and certified.	To be discussed at eBCD working group. Meanwhile, CPCs may indicate in their fishing plans how they intend to implement this.
			-
29	29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July. By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean; 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan. By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing Area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea. By way of derogation the purse-seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November. By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.	<b>Question from Libya:</b> In the scenario of a JFO with 4 vessels, one of which goes to fish in the Eastern Mediterranean (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1/2), what start dates is the JFO to apply?	All vessels in the same JFO must operate as a group and under the same area / season in accordance with the time/area restrictions of paragraph 9. Early season for eastern Mediterranean may be allowed if requested in fishing plan, but only if requested for all vessels in the same JFO.

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
30	If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred under paragraph 29 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.	<b>Question from Libya:</b> Will it be the discretion of the CPC to extend season for a vessel or vessels which claim they lost days due to bad weather? What procedures apply to CPC to inform Secretariat.	Force 4 or above on Beaufort scale, to be verified through VMS and weather reports. All vessels in a JFO must be considered as one i.e. they all stop or they all fish. Authorised extensions should be reported to the Secretariat and circulated to the other CPCs.
42	Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year <b>by 1 July</b> each year.	Is this information intended for SCRS? If so, is there any specific reason for the deadline differing from all other statistical data or is this for management purposes only?	To be amended at 2019 Commission meeting to 31 July.
45	45.Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the north east Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target Bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation; b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any Bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.	This paragraph refers to actions required at national / CPC level. The ICCAT GBYP currently operates a programme allowing a Research Mortality Allowance which follow the procedures outlined in Rec. 11-06, which remains in force. Are the provisions of para 45 also applicable to the vessels / institutes operating in the framework of the GBYP? e.g. Must such vessels be included on the CPC lists as well as GBYP lists? <b>Question/comment from Norway:</b> Why should not the CPC need to allocate a specific quota for this activity? Norway understands this "tag and release" fishery as an alternative to the ICCAT GBYP programme, given that the CPC has to deduct any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities, as opposed to the ICCAT GBYP programme where dead bluefin tuna is deducted from a ICCAT research quota. Although the vessels themselves should not be allocated a specific quota, we think it is important that the CPC allocate a specific quota for such a tag and release fishery, if such a fishery is to be conducted, so that dead bluefin tuna can be counted against this quota."	It is suggested that CPCs include information in their fishing plans on this point in the future.
46	CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.	Does "an authorisation" refer to the authorisation to catch and release described in para 45 or to any authorised recreational fishing vessel? We are presuming the former on the grounds of the qualifying " <i>upon request from ICCAT</i> ". Does ICCAT here refer to the Secretariat/the Commission or both/either?	The Commission may request the Secretariat to request such list from CPCs if there is a specific reason for doing so.

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
50	Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity <i><b>the list of its catching vessels, authorized to fish actively...</b></i>	We cannot find any time-frame for the submission of other fishing (i.e. non catching) vessels. Is there any deadline, or can CPCs include them on the Record retroactively, in accordance with the procedures of Rec. 13-13. In this case, how can vessels required to transmit VMS messages be identified?	This was an oversight which will be corrected at the forthcoming annual meeting. The deadline for BFT other vessels should be 15 days before the start of their operation. CPCs will voluntarily implement this deadline for 2019.
51	No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or <i>force majeure</i> . In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing: a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included in the records referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on the list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included in the records referred to in paragraph 49 and for which an ICCAT number has been provided by the Secretariat. b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references. The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.	Questions from Libya: 1) Is this para referring only to catching vessels or also the other vessels such as BFT-Other and tugs? 2) As a general enquiry: Once a PS has fished its quota and has ended its season and has disembarked its ROP, can the CPC have it included in the BFT-Others List to act as an assistant vessel?	Vessel may register to change activity but can only be in one list at a time and the change should be reported 15 days in advance of start of new activity. Fishing vessels changing to support vessels should not have fishing gear or setting equipment on board.
65	Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in Annex 2 or through the CPCs reporting requirement.	<b>Questions from Norway:</b> Catching vessels are required to send daily information from logbooks. - . Does this include sending daily reports when no activity has occurred? - Norway interprets paragraph 65 in such a way that the vessels do not need to send daily information from logbooks the day the vessel is in port and thus not fishing.	Catching vessels are not required to send daily reports if they are inactive in port.

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
74	CPCs shall send weekly to the ICCAT Secretariat the reports from purse seiners and traps defined in paragraphs 66 and 67, as well as weekly reports for vessels using any other gears. On the basis of that information, the ICCAT Secretariat shall within <b>10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics</b> collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs.	What is the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics? What should the Secretariat circulated, the sum of the weekly reports received that month, or a running total?	This oversight may be corrected at the forthcoming Commission meeting. Meanwhile, in the absence of monthly reports, running totals of weekly reports will be published around 10th of each month on the protected area of the ICCAT Web site
77	Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 69 to 72.	Question from Libya: Is the transfer of dead tuna between vessels in same JFO to be considered as transshipment once the quota of dead tuna quota is apportioned between the vessels in the same JFO according to the keys established.	Dead fish may not be transshipped from one purse seiner to another – they should be landed by the catching vessel, or possibly by a small auxiliary vessel. CPCs may raise this issue for further discussion in the future, but for 2019, the current measure will be implemented..
Para 84 and Annex 6, paras 5 & 6	ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel/tug boat/trap or farm for which their services are required, to the extent possible, ICCAT Secretariat should ensure that Regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag CPC of the vessel or farm or traps.	The wording of paragraph 84 has not been carried over to Annex 6, which remains unchanged from 14-01/17-07. In order to ensure the correct composition of the observer pool, confirmation is sought that the intention of the Panel is to give higher priority to nationality (should not be same nationality) than to language skills.	This needs to be unified in any future version of the Recommendation in order to avoid ambiguity; in general observers should not be of the same nationality as the Flag State in order to ensure objectivity and independence. For 2019, the consortium will continue to seek observers for Turkey with the relevant language skills, but may use Turkish observers for this season in the event that coverage cannot be achieved with non-Turkish observers.
92	However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel to conduct a new transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the <b>regional observer</b> . If that voluntary transfer control is not performed with satisfactory results, the flag CPC shall initiate an investigation. If after that investigation, it is confirmed that the quality of the video does not permit estimate the quantities involved in the transfer/caging, the enforcement authorities of the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall order a control transfer operation and provide the corresponding video record to the <b>Regional Observer</b> .	<b>Questions / comment from Turkey:</b> Within parag. 84 of Rec. 18-02, there is no provision on the coverage of Regional Observers during control transfers therefore, control transfers are conducted in the presence of CPC Observer and CPC inspectors. Control Caging operations are conducted under BFT ROP Observers presence (during all cagings of BFT in farms). The video footages must immediately be provided to CPC Observers and inspectors after each control transfers, and BFT-ROP Observers after each control cagings, regardless of video quality permits or does not permit estimation of quantities.	The Recommendation as written should be implemented, but timing of sending the video may be flexible. If ROP has left the area with the vessel, then the video should be forwarded to the consortium. However, it is recognized that the observer is not obliged to view this as s/he would no longer be deployed.

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
92 (cont)	...New transfers shall not be conducted as control transfer(s)/control caging(s) until the quality of the video record could allow estimating the quantities transferred	<b>Question/comment from Turkey:</b> This provision given under this paragraph can not be understood by our side. It is deemed that, should the intention is to conduct transfer for the cages of which the video record could not allow estimation when the conditions are improved, then it will be wrong the conduct transfers for other cages.	The word not should be removed, as this was a typing error. Panel 2 members will operate in 2019 on that understanding, pending correction by the Commission.
99	The farm CPC shall communicate the results of this [stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods] programme to the catching CPC, and, <b>to the Regional Observer.</b>	This is carried over from previous versions, and, as mentioned previously, the CPCs do not (and should not) have direct access to the regional observers, and neither does the Secretariat. (It is also noted that there is no requirement to send the information to the Secretariat other than the general submission to SCRS on 15 September.) In addition, the results of stereoscopic analysis usually arrive some considerable time after the event, and the observer is usually no longer deployed on the farm. It should be noted that observers are only paid for the days they are deployed, and do not carry out any tasks following the end of their deployment. Should the ROP implementing consortium email address be made available to CPCs, so that the information can be sent directly to the consortium, or how does Panel 2 envisage this to happen?	It is recognized that the results of the stereoscopic cameras may not be available in time to give to the observer before s/he finishes deployment, but that these results could be sent to the consortium later.
102	102. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for Bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of Bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.	Is the caging report in para 102 of 18-02 meant to be instead of, and not as well as, the caging declarations required by 06-07 para 2b? Or is the requirement to send both? We understand that the caging declaration still needs to be completed, but does it have to be sent to the Secretariat?	Both are still in force and both are required. The incorporation of the relevant clauses from 06-07 into possible revision of 18-02 should be considered.

Para.	Provision of 18-02	Request for clarification + additional requests from CPCs	Answer
Annex 6, para 2	2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers <b>before 1 April each year</b> , and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.	Lists of vessels are not required to be submitted until 15 days before start of activity. Start date of activity for purse seiners can be from 15 May to 25 June. Secretariat seeks guidance on how to appoint observers for vessels before it is known which vessels will be operating.	It is recognized that this cannot be done before 1 April. In order to facilitate recruitment and training, each CPC will send the final number of vessels, embarkation points and languages as soon as possible.
Annex 11	<b>Recording/treating of dead fish during first transfer:</b> a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD; b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD; c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.	<b>Comments/questions from Libya:</b> Dead fish collected from the fishing net prior to the transfer into the cage cannot be denominated dead fish <b>during</b> transfer. It would be more practical to issue a separate eBCD for these fish which are then retained on board the catching vessel. Indeed these fish are not considered property of the cage owner but of the vessel because the cage owner has not received them in his cage so they are not traded. Whether the catching vessel decides to keep them for its own consumption or trade them later is a different issue. The fish which die after the transfer constitute part of the catch which is traded and should be reported in Sections 3 and 4	This issue should be discussed at eBCD working group and possibly by PWG if necessary.

## Appendix 6

### **Draft Terms of Reference to Convene an ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna (BFT) Control and Monitoring Measures [NOT ADOPTED] (Submitted by the European Union)**

*NOTING* that ICCAT has adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02);

*FURTHER NOTING* that in its final provisions Recommendation 18-02 calls for a discussion about potential additional measures to further strengthening the traceability of live bluefin tuna;

*CONSIDERING* that additional measures on traceability are required to consolidate the recovery of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna;

*CONSIDERING* that the establishment of a Working Group would guarantee a level playing field among all the Contracting Parties concerned;

*RECOGNIZING* that this Working Group should be initiated without delay;

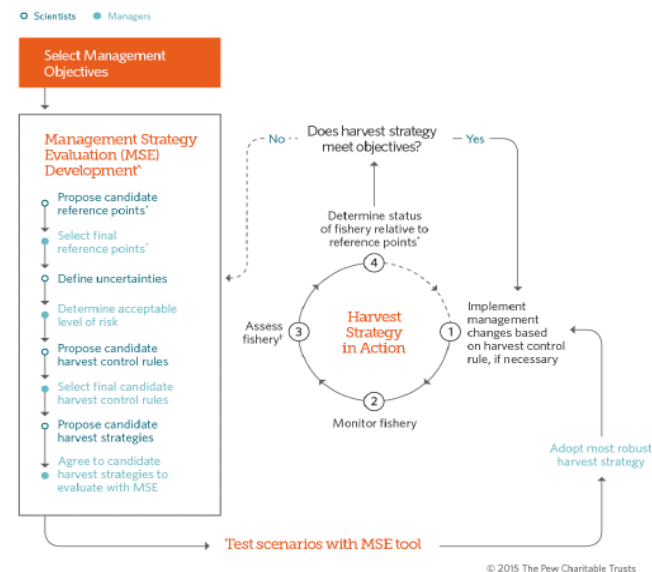
#### THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. A Working Group be established to assess the current control measures, to identify possible weaknesses in the control measures and to propose to Panel 2 any necessary amendments to those control measures aiming to establish full traceability and control of live bluefin tuna, in accordance with applicable international law.
2. In carrying out its tasks, the Working Group shall:
  - a) Assess the current measures that refer to the traceability and control of live bluefin tuna, from the catching to the harvesting points with the view to identify possible weaknesses;
  - b) Based on available information, identify approaches for reinforcing the traceability and control of live bluefin tuna in ICCAT fisheries;
  - c) As appropriate, make proposals for potential additional measures;
  - d) Establish a time schedule for the development of its work;
  - e) Hold at least one meeting during 2019, before the next Commission meeting in November 2019.
  - f) Be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of organisation.
3. CPCs shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat of the names of the participants designated to the Working Group at the latest by 29 March 2019.

### ICCAT BFT MSE quick reference

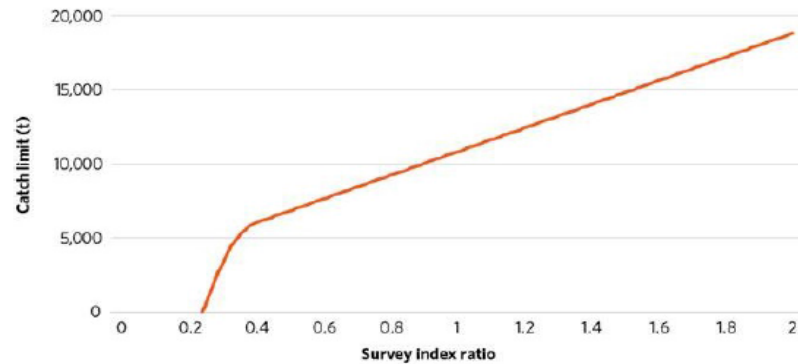
- **Management procedure (MP):** A pre-agreed framework for recommending or making fisheries management decisions, such as setting catch limits, that is designed to achieve specific **management objectives**. A fully developed **Management Procedure** specifies which monitoring data will be collected, how the data will be analyzed, and what **harvest control rule(s)** will be applied. Also known as a harvest strategy.
- **Operating model (OM):** The part of the **Management Strategy Evaluation** that represents the “true” underlying status and dynamics of the population, fishery, and monitoring regime. There will be a number of Operating Models considered so as to capture the full range of uncertainties applying to the resource and fishery. Often two sets of Operating models are used: a “reference set” of the most plausible scenarios or hypotheses with the greatest impact on outcomes and a “robustness set” of unlikely but still possible scenarios or hypotheses.
- **Harvest control rule (HCR):** A rule that describes how the harvest is to be managed (e.g., catch- or effort-related limits) based on the state of a specified indicator(s) of stock status. Also known as a decision rule.
- **Performance statistics:** A quantitative expression of a **management objective**. Performance statistics compare the value of an indicator or variable (e.g., biomass, depletion) at a given point in time (or over a period of time, such as average catch over the next 20 years) to the stated objective for this indicator, so as to evaluate how well the objective is expected to be achieved under the MP being evaluated. Also known as performance metrics or performance measures.

## ICCAT BFT MSE quick reference



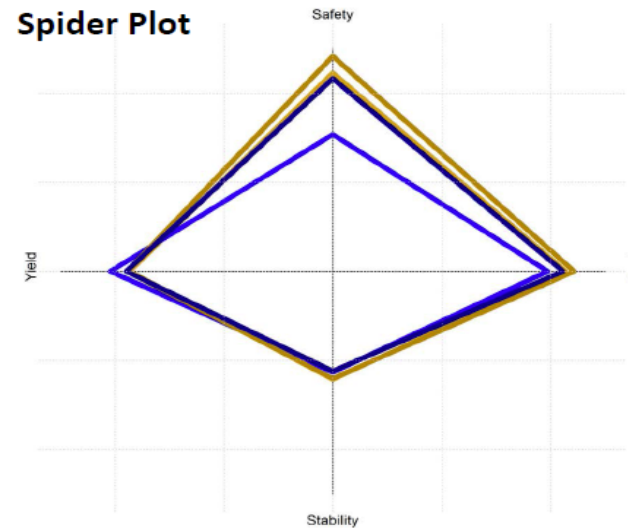
- **Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE):** A structured approach to evaluating management procedures against pre-defined goals and objectives.
- **Management Objectives:** Formally adopted goals for a stock or fishery. These include high-level objectives often expressed in legislation, conventions, or similar documents. As the process progresses, they should also include operational biological and socio-economic objectives that are specific and measurable and possibly also associated timelines and minimum required probabilities that can be achieved.

### Example of a empirical management procedure



- Empirical management procedures can be used for making fisheries management decisions, such as setting catch limits. These decision rules can often be based on changes observed in a survey or CPUE index as seen in the above figure. As the survey index increases the Catch limits increase, as the survey index decreases the catch limits decrease.
- $B_{MSY}$ : The biomass level producing maximum sustainable yield (MSY) at equilibrium.
- $B_{LIM}$ : a level below which there is high probability that productivity is impaired and serious harm will occur.
- Fishing mortality rate (F): Continuous annual rate of loss of fish from a population due to fishing.
- $F_{MSY}$ : The fishing mortality rate resulting in equilibrium biomass of  $B_{MSY}$  and, therefore, achieving MSY.

### Spider Plot



- Spider plots are used to visualize the results of **performance statistics** of multiple **management procedures** in one figure. Better values are towards the outside, worse values are towards the inside. Here each colour represents a different **management procedure**.

**Adjustments to the current set of performance indicators**



**16. Review of performance statistics (e.g. average catch over projection period) and possible modifications**

The Group reviewed several performance statistics and noted that several clarifications (noted, below in **Section 26**) would be requested from Panel 2. The Group discussed aspects of the calculation of different performance statistics but specific calculations and definitions will be further elaborated by or in conjunction with Panel 2.



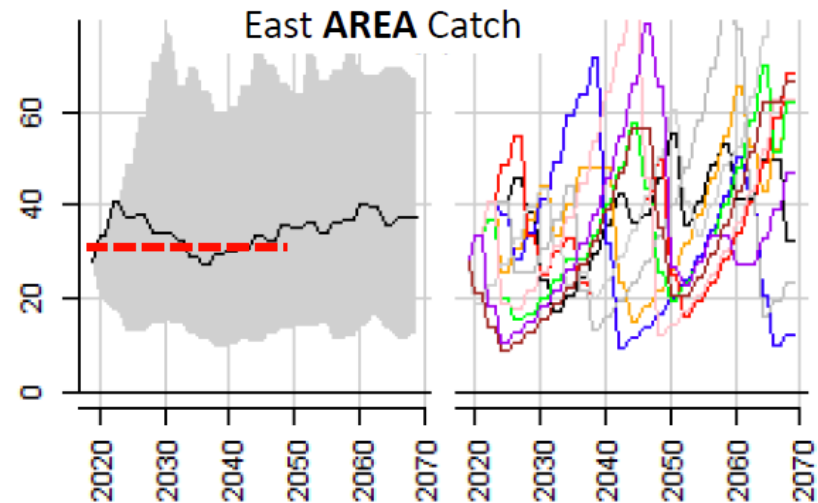
## Preliminary performance metrics as used in Trials Specifications Document

number	statistic	Description	What it applies to
1	AvC30	Average catch over years 1-30 (per area – west or east)	Area (East and West)
2	C3	Average catch over years 1-3	Area (East and West)
3	C6	Average catch over year 1-6	Area (East and West)
4	C10	Average catch over years 1-10	Area (East and West)
5	C20	Average catch over year 10-20	Area (East and West)
6	C30	Average catch over year 20-30	Area (East and West)
7	D10	Depletion relative to dynamic $B_0$ at 10 years (per stock – western or eastern origin)	Biological Stock (East and West)
8	D20	Depletion at 20 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
9	D30	Depletion at 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
10	LD	Lowest depletion over 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
11	DNC	Depletion at year 30 relative to no catch (i.e. “dynamic”), this differs from D30 because dynamic $B_0$ may not be reached at year 30	Biological Stock (East and West)
12	LDNC	Lowest depletion relative to no catch	Biological Stock (East and West)
13	POF	Probability of Over-Fishing ( $F > F_{MSY}$ ) over 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
14	POS	Probability of Over-Fished status ( $B < B_{MSY}$ ) over 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
15	POF10	Probability of Over-Fishing ( $F > F_{MSY}$ ) over years 1-10	Biological Stock (East and West)
16	POS10	Probability of Over-Fished status ( $B < B_{MSY}$ ) over years 1-10	Biological Stock (East and West)
17	POF20	Probability of Over-Fishing ( $F > F_{MSY}$ ) over years 11-20	Biological Stock (East and West)
18	POS20	Probability of Over-Fished status ( $B < B_{MSY}$ ) over years 11-20	Biological Stock (East and West)
19	POF30	Probability of Over-Fishing ( $F > F_{MSY}$ ) over years 21-30	Biological Stock (East and West)
20	POS30	Probability of Over-Fished status ( $B < B_{MSY}$ ) years 21-30	Biological Stock (East and West)
21	PGK	Probability of Green Kobe region ( $F < F_{MSY}$ AND $B > B_{MSY}$ ) over 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)
22	AAVC	Average variation in catch between TAC changes over 30 year time period	Area (East and West)
23	NegC	Maximum negative change in catch (per area) over 30 year time period	Area (East and West)
24	PosC	Maximum positive change in catch (per area) over 30 year time period	Area (East and West)
25	Br30	Depletion (B relative to dynamic $B_{MSY}$ ) after projection year 30	Stock (East and West)
26	BR10	Depletion (B relative to dynamic $B_{MSY}$ ) after projection year 10	Biological Stock (East and West)
27	BR20	Depletion (B relative to dynamic $B_{MSY}$ ) after projection year 20	Biological Stock (East and West)
28	PBlim	Probability of $B < B_{lim}$ over 30 years	Biological Stock (East and West)

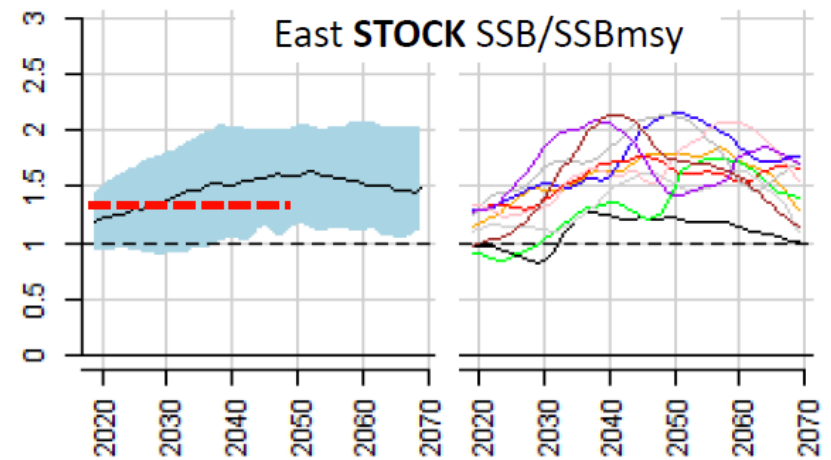


## 'Worm' plots of catch and SSB/SSB<sub>msy</sub>

AvC30 Average catch over years  
1-30 (per area – west or  
east)



POS Probability of Over-Fished  
status ( $B < B_{MSY}$ ) over 30  
years



Br30 Depletion ( $B$  relative to  
dynamic  $B_{MSY}$ ) after  
projection year 30

Further details about how a Management Procedure would *likely* work

e.g. apply “**Good enough MP**” procedure

