

Original: English

#### **FOLLOW UP OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

As in previous years, a table showing the progress to date on the recommendations made by the Performance Review Panel has been extracted for each subsidiary body. The sheet for the SCRS has been included with that of the Plenary for information. It should be noted that some of the entries on the extract for the SCRS were proposed by the SCRS Chair, but the SCRS did not have time to fully debate and endorse these and hence may be subject to change.

Where actions have been completed, the item has been removed from the sheets of the Plenary and of the Subsidiary bodies, except in the cases of the COC and PWG at the request of the Chairs of these bodies.

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - PLENARY SESSIONS

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PLE	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
<b>Draft Amended ICCAT Convention</b>	2. Urge its Members, following the conclusion of the work of the WG on Convention Amendment, to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention enter into force as soon as soon as possible.	COM	X		Agreement on text has been reachd. Protocol to be signed at forthcoming Commission meeting in 2019.	Finalise and sign protocol.	TBD	
<b>Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears</b>	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration. FAD WG is also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.	A proposal on discarded gear was put forward in 2018 but was not adopted.		
<b>Previously Unregulated Fisheries</b>	58. Considering the important role played by the sport and recreational fisheries in a number of key fisheries, notably billfishes, the Panel recommends that: a) the Working Group is re-activated to complete its mandate; and	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	Lack of the submission of relevant information on recreational fisheries by many CPCs has limited the utility of this Working Group.		
	b) mechanisms are developed by ICCAT to engage this sector in the deliberations of ICCAT on management and control measures for these fisheries.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.	CPCs have an important role in engaging their stakeholders on ICCAT matters.		
<b>Fishing Allocations and Opportunities</b>	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Some progress has been made in individual Panels.		
	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Has been done for some species.		

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<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.	COM	X	S	Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	Has been discussed in some cases, but needs to be considered on a case by case basis and may not be appropriate to all measures.		See comment PWG from IMM WG.
<b>Decision-Making</b>	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.		
<b>Confidentiality</b>	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	X	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.	All Commission documents are now open to the public. Only data sets containing fine scale data made available on the grounds of confidentiality are considered confidential, but PWG suggests that the rules be revised.		See comment PWG from IMM WG.
<b>Relationship to Cooperating Non-Members</b>	100. Considers formalising the procedure for inviting non-CPCs.	COM	X	M	Refer to COC for consideration.	Needs to be added to COC agenda for 2019.		
	103. Continues and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other tuna RFMOs in the context of the Kobe process and otherwise, in particular on the harmonization of their conservation and management measures.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider ways to enhance cooperation with other tuna RFMOs.	Input from the Secretariat should help inform this discussion. Future of Kobe process discussed in 2018, and online reporting working group will take this into consideration.		

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PLE	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
Cooperation with Other RFMOs and Relevant International Organisations	104. Continue and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental bodies, in particular in relation to the conservation and management of sharks.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider how to enhance cooperation with other IGOs on sharks and other matters.	Work is ongoing with GFCM, WECAFC and OSPAR. ICCAT will also follow UN BBNJ process, and continue to participate in the Common Oceans project of FAO.		
	105. Considers becoming a member of the IMCS Network.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.			
	106. Considers making more information on its cooperation with other RFMOs and intergovernmental bodies available on a dedicated part of the ICCAT website.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider what, if any, additional information to put on the website. The Secretariat would post any identified information.			
Presentation Scientific Advice	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.	Related to recommendation 43.		
Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat	117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.	COM	X	S	Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.	SCRS to revisit strategic plan. May also need be considered by STACFAD.		To include on STACFAD sheet for 2019.
	118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.	COM	X	M/L	For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.			See comments SCRS-BIL SG.

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PLE	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
SCRS Long-Term Strategy	122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.	Linked to 117. Currently under consideration by STACFAD.		
Decision-Making	1. Urges its CPCs to make all necessary efforts to bring the work of the WG on Convention Amendment to a successful conclusion. This also includes agreement:1. b) on a (de facto) provisional application of some or all amendments to the ICCAT Convention from the time of their adoption.	CWG	X		Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.	To be decided once current package is adopted.		
Decision-Making	90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption.	CWG	X	M	See Recommendation 1(b) for proposed action.	To be decided once current package is adopted.		

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Timeframe	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
Decision-Making	1. b) on a (de facto) provisional application of some or all amendments to the ICCAT Convention from the time of their adoption.	CWG		Issue would need to be considered once convention amendments are agreed.		To be decided once current package is adopted.		
	90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption.	CWG	M	See Recommendation 1(b) for proposed action.		To be decided once current package is adopted.		

## FOLLOW-UP OF THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - SCRS

Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	SCRS Secondary	Timeframe	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
Data Collection and Sharing	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS		M					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Billfish have catch limits and are often bycatch. These limits may have changed the discarding practices of fishing fleets. Unfortunately few CPCs report discards (dead or alive).</li> <li>• Accurate discard information for reporting Task I and II, requires observers at-sea. Billfish species are rare occurrences, therefore, need more observer coverage and complete reporting than presently provided.</li> <li>• Marlin species are under a rebuilding program that requires to live releases. Therefore, marlin species require information on live discards more than any other ICCAT species.</li> <li>• There are ongoing capacity building initiatives (e.g. JCAP, US Data Fund) that aim to improve data collection and reporting to ICCAT in developing coastal countries. Such data collection can be focused on various Species Groups, namely the main tunas, but also include by-catch species such as sharks and billfishes.</li> <li>• For proper recording and reporting of all by-catch (including discards) there is the need to establish onboard observer programs. In cases where establishing such programs is problematic, it is possible to consider alternative methods such as EMS.</li> </ul>
Data Collection and Sharing	7. The Panel considers that major progress in data availability is necessary and recommends that substantial improvements in data quality and data completeness can only be achieved by simplifying and automating the process of collecting data in a systematic and integrated way. This may not be possible for artisanal fleets, but should be possible for most of the fleets in developed CPCs.	SCRS		S	Secretariat and SCRS should collaborate to identify the existing shortcomings in data collection and reporting processes, procedures, and mechanisms at the Commission level as well as possible improvements.	Improvements should also be considered by CPCs in their domestic data collection programs, where appropriate.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is possible to improve data for artisanal/small scale fleets. The recent ICCAT initiatives for improving the data collection for these fleets in West Africa and Caribbean have been effective but need to continue to be supported and expanded.</li> <li>• There are ongoing capacity building initiatives (e.g. JCAP and US Data Fund) that aim to improve data collection and reporting to ICCAT in developing coastal countries.</li> </ul>
Rebuilding Plans	49. The Panel recommends that ICCAT agree a work plan across all the stocks for the SCRS and Commission, as has been agreed by WCPFC. Apart from the obvious advantage of ensuring consistency of approach across the stocks, it would also engage all the CPCs simultaneously in this key process.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS to engage as appropriate with other tRFMOs and gather and evaluate relevant information.	The road map adopted by the Commission in 2016 provides the foundation for this work.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is possible to improve data for artisanal/small scale fleets. The recent ICCAT initiatives for improving the data collection for these fleets in West Africa and Caribbean have been effective but need to continue to be supported and expanded.</li> </ul>
Sea turtles	52. The Panel considers that this issue affects all tuna RFMOs, and knowledge and experience should continue to be pooled between the RFMOs.	SCRS		S/M	Refer to SCRS to engage as appropriate with other tRFMOs and gather and evaluate relevant information.	Should be considered within Kobe process.			
	53. The Panel noted that there are no reliable estimates of the mortality caused by longlines on these species and recommends that a time-limited program be designed to estimate seabird and turtle mortality in ICCAT longline fisheries. This programme should be of at least one year duration and involve increased observer coverage deemed sufficient to estimate turtle and seabird mortality by all major fleets. Such increased observer coverage would also provide information on the impact of ICCAT fisheries on other components of the ecosystem.	SCRS		M	Refer to SCRS to assess the rationale for this recommendation and if necessary and appropriate, to consider development of a program of data collection for the fisheries concerned.	Some work in this area is already ongoing within SCRS.	Commission to continue financial support for the ongoing collaborative work among scientists specifically for sea turtle interactions. Commission to encourage the participation of other CPCs in this collaborative process. There are plans to start organizing in 2020 a series of workshops for CPCs/national scientists that are interested in collaborating in joint analysis of detailed observer data related to sea turtles.		The SCRS estimate of the level of coverage required to estimate the number of interactions with rare species is above 85%, in contrast to the current requirement of 5% which is not fully achieved. The first priority is for all CPCs to fulfil the current observer requirement with complete reporting to ICCAT.

Seabirds	55. The Panel considers that this issue affects all tuna RFMOs, and knowledge and experience should continue to be pooled between the RFMOs.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS to engage as appropriate with other RFMOs and gather and evaluate relevant information.	Should be considered within Kobe process.		
	56. The Panel reiterates its recommendation on a time-limited programme to estimate seabird and turtle mortality in ICCAT longline fisheries.	SCRS		M	See recommendation 53 above for proposed action.		Commission to continue financial support for the ongoing collaborative work among scientists specifically for sea birds interactions. Commission to encourage the participation of other CPCs in this collaborative process. A series of workshops have been carried out in 2018 and 2019 with various national scientists from various ICCAT CPCs, that have started to work on joint analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of current seabird mitigation measures. The aim is to finish the analysis by 2020 and provide an answer to the Commission and in a scientific paper. Similar work is planned to start in 2020 for sea turtles.	• The SCRS estimate of the level of coverage required to estimate the number of interactions with rare species is above 85%, in contrast to the current requirement of 5% which is not fully achieved. The first priority is for all CPCs to fulfil the current observer requirement with complete reporting to ICCAT.
Best Scientific Advice	111. The Panel notes that aerial survey estimates in the spawning areas could be very useful in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and recommends that efforts be made to derive a usable index and that data continue to be collected.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS for appropriate action.	SCRS continues to emphasize the need for developing fishery independent indices of abundance like this aerial survey.		• The use of larval indices from fishery-independent surveys was attempted in the last swordfish assessment (2017), but not used at the time. The swordfish workplan states that work will continue regarding that index and consider its use in the next stock assessment.
	112. The Panel re-iterates the recommendation of the 2008 Panel that a better balance of scientists with knowledge of the fishery and modelling expertise be sent to the assessment meetings of the SCRS.	SCRS		S/M	Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.			• The Billfish SG notes that there as the lack of participation in recent times from countries that contribute significant proportions of the catch of Billfish species, and that have produced indices in abundances that now are not been updated. The Group wants to encourage participation of all CPCs that have fisheries interacting with billfish. The SCRS should consider mechanisms to encourage scientists from all CPCs to engage in the work which supports the Billfish SG.
Best Scientific Advice	113. The Panel recommends that Management Strategy Evaluation should be used on a few stocks to estimate the costs and benefits of collecting more detailed information.	SCRS		S/M	Refer to SCRS to consider this issue specifically when conducting MSEs and advise SWGSM on the findings.			• The Billfish SG agreed that MSE for billfish species should consider the overall strategic plan for MSE before the SCRS could be asked to engage in such MSE process. Many of the experts engaged in billfishes assessments and that potentially could engage in billfishes MSE are already involved in the other MSE processes in ICCAT.
Capacity Building Initiatives	119. The Panel recommends that specific mentoring projects to include trainees in stock assessment teams be implemented.	SCRS		M/L	Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits of this idea and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.	SCRS has conducted some training on stock assessment techniques in the past.		JCAP-2 has plans for longer term training of scientists from developing countries, integrated in Masters or PhDs.
	120. The Panel recommends that ICCAT develop specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.	SCRS		S/M	Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.	Related to Rec. 112		The SCRS has requested additional funds be made available by the Commission to reinforce the Meeting Participation Fund and allow more fisheries scientists from developing CPCs to attend the SCRS meetings. In addition, the SCRS has also encouraged developed CPCs to include more fisheries scientists in their delegations attending SCRS meetings.
	121. The Panel also recommends that formal training in stock assessment be provided, possibly in cooperation with other organizations.	SCRS		M	Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess the financial implications.		Secretariat is working with the SCRS on a plan for training on stock assessment to be implemented through 2019.	Funding will be required for implementation. Related with point 119 above. JCAP-2 has the possibility of longer term funding and training. The SCRS requested the Secretariat that the population dynamics expert at the Secretariat develop a plan for capacity building. However, the SCRS recognize that the current workload of the Secretariat staff make this task difficult.



Implementation Res 11-17	123. The Panel recommends that model runs that are the basis of the SCRS advice should be available on the ICCAT website and easy to find. This should include the most recent model runs, but as assessments are updated, older runs should also be available.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS for action.	This work is already underway in 2017.			The Secretariat to update all relevant data sets using in the assessments in a repository (github).
	124. The Panel recommends that ICCAT cooperates with other stock assessments organizations to develop an integrated stock assessment framework where all current models could be run and new models could be integrated, while being transparent on what data and parameters have been used under what assumptions.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS to consider and advise on this matter. The Secretariat should assist with this work as needed.				
	125. The Panel recommends that ICCAT considers adopting a system with scientists from external organisations, universities or otherwise are contracted to review SCRS assessments.	SCRS		S	Refer to SCRS to review and update the current TORs for these reviewers.	A mechanism already exists for external reviewers to participate in SCRS stock assessments.			ICCAT regularly invites external independent experts to review the SCRS stock assessments (e.g. 2018 BET SA; 2019 YFT SA).
Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species	4. The Panel recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertainty and that their status is often poorly known.	PA4	SCRS	M	While led by Panel 4, refer to SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species.	This refers to relevant associated species as defined in the Review.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catch advice provided for billfishes has, in general, been followed by the Commission.</li> <li>However, billfishes assessments tend to be under the most uncertain of all assessments conducted at ICCAT. Therefore catch limits should be more precautionary than for other species. In general the Commission has not exerted more precaution for BILL than for other species.</li> <li>In addition, recent blue marlin harvests have exceeded the levels of catch that in 2011 the SCRS had predicted would allow the stock to rebuild (2,000 t or less, including dead discards). The SCRS emphasizes to the Commission that persistent over-harvest will compromise stock rebuilding and potentially lead to further stock declines.</li> <li>The Commission should consider other management measures such as time/area closures or gear modifications (circle hooks) to reduce fishing mortality of blue marlin.</li> <li>The new ICCAT Convention Amendment mentions the precautionary approach.</li> </ul>
Bigeye	12. The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.	SWGSM	SCRS	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.			
	15. The Panel, noting that ICCAT has established a working group on FADs, recommends that ICCAT prioritise this work and, in parallel, pursue the initiative across all tuna RFMOs to pool the information, knowledge and approaches on how to introduce effective management of FADs into the tropical tuna fisheries on a worldwide scale.	PA1	SCRS	S	Work on matters related to FADs is already underway, in particular within the context of the FAD WG. This should continue and Panel 1 should consider this work when discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tuna fisheries.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.			The SCRS will conduct an analysis to be presented to the Commission.
Yellowfin	18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.	SWGSM	SCRS	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.			In 2017 ICCAT hosted the first meeting of the joint t-RFMOs FAD Working Group meeting. In 2019 delegates from ICCAT CPCs attended the second meeting of the FAD Technical Working Group held in San Diego.
Skipjack	21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.	SWGSM	SCRS	S/M	Refer matter to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.			

South Atlantic Swordfish	27. The Panel notes the high underage permitted to be transferred from year to year of 30%, and indeed 50% from 2013. The Panel finds this inconsistent with sound management given the high uncertainty in the assessment, and the more modest underage/overage allowed for other ICCAT stocks (10 or 15%).	PA4	SCRS	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration during 2017 discussion of conservation and management measures, but may need input from SCRS in medium term.	Rec. 16-04 expires in 2017.	The current SWO Atlantic Executive Summary notes that "The Committee also recognizes that the above advice does not account for (...), quota carryovers (15% in the North Atlantic), quota transfers across the North and South stock management boundaries nor the total cumulative quota, which includes that allocated to "other CPCs" and would fall above the TAC if achieved. The Committee emphasizes the importance of this uncertainty particularly given that the current (2015) estimated biomass is close to BMSY".		The current Atlantic SWO Executive Summary notes and alerts the Commission of those issues.
Mediterranean Swordfish	30. The Panel encourages ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for this stock and endorses the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored and that every component of the Mediterranean swordfish mortality be adequately reported to ICCAT by the CPCs.	PA4	SCRS	M	Refer to Panel 4 to consider shortcomings in data collection and reporting and ways to address them.	COC, SCRS, the Secretariat, and/or CPCs may also have roles to play in implementing this Rec. SCRS will carry out an assessment in 2019.	A stock assessment for Med SWO is scheduled for 2020.		In 2019 ICCAT issued a short-term contract aiming at the recovery of historical data on Mediterranean swordfish data from the EU-Italy longline fishery.
Mediterranean Albacore	35. The Panel reiterates the 2008 Panel recommendation that ICCAT assures itself that the stock is not overfished and over fishing is not occurring.	PA2	SCRS	S	Refer to Panel 2 for consideration in 2017 of conservation and management measures in light of assessment outcome.	Work by SCRS is being carried out.	Stock assessment carried out in 2017 and Rec. 17-07 adopted, with significant but gradual increase in TACs.		A new stock assessment is being planned for 2020.
Blue and White Marlins	38. The Panel supports the SCRS advice that ICCAT actively encourage, or make obligatory, the use of non-offset circle hooks on long line fisheries to reduce the mortality of released marlin.	PA4	SCRS	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration when discussing stock conservation and management based on new stock assessments.				The billfish SG continues to support the use of non-offset circle hooks because it will reduce the mortality of live releases and increase the probability of fish to be alive upon haulback.
Rebuilding Plans	47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.	SWGSM	SCRS	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.				
	48. The Panel recommends that ICCAT should prioritise the development of a long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.	SWGSM	SCRS	S/M	Refer to SWGSM and Panel 1 where work is already underway.				
Seabirds	54. The Panel commends ICCAT on the measures it has introduced to date and recommends that it pursues its stated goal of further reducing bird mortality through the refinement of existing mitigation measures.	PA4	SCRS	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration based on input from SCRS, as needed.		A series of workshops were carried out in 2018 and 2019 to use national observer data from various CPCs to evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation measures that are in place for sea birds mortality mitigation. Final results are expected in 2020.		
Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	SCRS	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration, FAD WG also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.				

Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	SCRS	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.				
	98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.	PWG	SCRS	M	Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.				The SCRS is currently revising the Rules and Procedures for the "Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data" compiled by Secretariat.
Presentation Scientific Advice	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM	SCRS	S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.				
Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat	117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.	COM	SCRS	S	Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.				
	118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.	COM	SCRS	M	For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SCRS does not support the outsourcing of the whole assessment. The current system ensures broad input from scientists familiar with relevant knowledge on the fish and fisheries been assessed.</li> <li>• The SCRS supports the use of external experts with special knowledge when this is required and also support the current peer review process.</li> <li>• The presence of peer reviewers during the assessment is strongly preferred.</li> </ul>