

SECRETARIAT REPORT TO THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

ICCAT Secretariat

NOTE: This report is based on information and submissions received on or before **15 October 2019** (31 October 2019 for Section 7). Any information received after that date will be brought to the attention of the PWG Chair.

1. Statistics document, bluefin catch documentation programmes and other trade data

A comparison between statistical documents data (bi-annual bigeye and swordfish reports) and Task I nominal catch data is provided in **Tables 23 and 24** of document **PLE-105/19**. Trade data in accordance with Rec. 06-13 are contained in **Annex 1** of **COC-303/19** (electronic version only).

– Validation and other information required

Validation information on institutions and people authorised to validate the ICCAT statistical document is published on a password protected website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/SDPsummary.asp>

In accordance with Recs. 01-21 and 01-22, bi-annual Statistical Documents (SD) and/or Re-export Certificates (RC) of swordfish (SWO) and bigeye (BET), which have been updated in several cases, covering the period from the first semester of 2017 to the first semester of 2019, were received by the Secretariat from the following CPCs: Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, EU (all flags combined), Ghana, Japan, Korea, Norway, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States, and, Chinese Taipei. Algeria, Mexico, and, Namibia confirmed no imports of these species to report.

As summarized in **Table 1**, these reports reveal that some quantities of both bigeye tuna and swordfish continue to be imported from unknown fishing areas and unclassified fishing flags making it difficult to distinguish whether these have submitted their validation information or not. They also show that bigeye imports continue to be made from fishing flags whose validation information has never been submitted to the Secretariat. To date, no validation information has yet been received from EU-Hungary, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Switzerland, and validation information is missing from Mozambique and Oman regarding bigeye only. Last year, the Secretariat had requested this information from Grenada and had contacted Oman to consider adding SDP validation information for bigeye. This year, requests were made again regarding these three fishing Entities, and new requests were made for EU-Hungary, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Switzerland.

Information on bi-annual reports is published on the password protected website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/SDPsummary.asp>

– BCDs and BFTRC submission and processing

The Secretariat received, between 11 October 2018 and 11 October 2019: 395 BCD splits and 180 re-export certificates.

The information from these documents is published on the website at: <https://www.iccat.int/en/BCD.asp>

– Implementation of the eBCD system

The number of eBCDs and BFTRCs recorded in the eBCD system from 11 October 2018 to 11 October 2019 was of 15,510 BCDs and 1,086 re-exports.

The eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) met in September 2019. A report from the meeting is available and the Chair of the TWG will present the developments of the system in document **PWG-403/19**.

The Secretariat, with the profile of ICCAT Administrator in the eBCD system, would like to make the following observations:

After four years in operation, several CPCs are of the view that the system is complete and fully functional. The Technical Working Group, however, has identified several areas for which additional development may be required, and some developments are currently ongoing. **PWG-403/19** shows more details on this. It should be noted that, if major changes are made to the current conservation and management measures, the development of additional functionalities may be required.

This year a new and efficient tool for the generation of digital certificates has been developed. Its working properly and available since the end of March. This new functionality is quicker and easier to use, and the duplication of certificates is avoided.

2. Observer Programmes

ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes

Document **PWG-402/19** contains the report on ICCAT Regional Observer Programme on transshipment, and document **PA2-601/19** a report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT). This year some issues were raised in relation to the ROP-Transshipment by PEW; the information was submitted to the Compliance Committee as **COC-312/19**. As a result of investigations into the allegations, some errors in the Consortium database were detected. Although these have been corrected, some discrepancies remain between Consortium data and CPC data; the Secretariat is working with all Parties to determine the source of these.

National / domestic observer programmes

National observers are currently required on certain percentages of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna catching vessels (other than purse seiners) and on all bluefin tuna towing vessels and traps [Rec. 18-02], as well on tropical tuna vessels fishing in the Gulf of Guinea during the FAD closure [Rec. 16-01] for compliance purposes. No specific format for the information collected has been developed beyond the standard statistical data forms.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 16-14] requires the submission of certain information. During the analysis for the Compliance Committee (see document **COC-317/19**) it came to light that the current ST11 form for reporting observer coverage may need refining, in order to be able to determine whether coverage is fully in line with the Recommendation. In addition, the procedures for reporting and approval for alternative measures do not seem to be correctly followed.

The Recommendation, in paragraph 18, stipulates that *The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2019 annual meeting and consider revising it, in particular, in the light of information provided by CPCs and of SCRS recommendations.*

In the 2019 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), under the Responses to the Commission's requests (Item 19.6), the SCRS recommended that: *"In order for the Committee to further develop a response to the Commission, the Committee encourages the following actions: - CPCs resubmit old data in new format including the 2018, 2019 submissions as well as old submission that could not be imported. The Secretariat will advise CPCs on which submission are required; - Secretariat will provide clear instructions on how aggregated fields should interpreted for sampling and mitigation measures; - Encourage all CPCs to be compliant with data submission requirements to improve National Observer Program coverage and completeness. The SCRS has already adopted and recommended the implementation of minimum standards*

(SCRS/2016/180) for the use of Electronic Monitoring System for purse seine vessels in the tropical tuna fishery"

3. At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

CPC reports on transshipment (at sea and in port) are contained in **Annex 1 and Annex 2 to PWG_402/19**, while its **Appendix 2** contains the comprehensive reports assessing the content and conclusions of observer reports.

4. Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

The summary reports on chartering were submitted in 2019 by Namibia and South Africa. The reports are contained in **Appendix 2 to COC-303/19**.

The information on chartering arrangements received by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 13 of Rec. 13-14 is presented in **Table 11 to COC-303/19**.

In accordance with Rec. 14-07, the summary of access agreements reported by CPCs is available in **Annex 9 to COC_303/19**. In order to fully comply with the requirements of this Recommendation, it is suggested that a simplified form be developed for reporting the data collected, in order to avoid confusion and double counting with Task I data. Such data would have no scientific value, so PWG may wish to clarify the intent and purpose of the data to be collected, in order to develop an appropriate reporting mechanism and submit to the relevant review body.

5. At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs

No vessel sighting sheets were received during 2019. The reports from the Joint Inspection Scheme carried out in accordance with Rec. 18-02 (previously 17-07) and Rec. 16-05 have been summarised in **Table 2 of COC-303/19**.

Reports were received from EU (those with possible infringements), Tunisia and Turkey.

Request from the Secretariat: In 2018, the Commission agreed that only reports from Port Inspection which indicate an infringement of ICCAT conservation and management measures need be submitted to the Secretariat. The Secretariat suggests that a similar approach be considered for the at-sea inspection schemes and that CPCs submit a summary of the inspections carried out where no infringement has been detected. This would reduce the need to try to send very large files to the Secretariat which then have to be stored. Over the years such files take up considerable space, and to date, no use has been made of these. In addition, most of the reports are hand-written, and very difficult to read, and would be easier to summarise at source from the originals.

6. Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

The list of ports into which foreign vessels may enter, has been published on <https://iccat.int/en/Ports.asp> together with contacts and prior-entry request times.

The two possible infringement that were reported by EU, as shown in **Table 3 of COC-303/19**, are included in **Annex 11 of COC-303/19**.

7. Vessel registration requirements

For the current state of the ICCAT Record of Vessels, please see the summary contained in **Table 2**.

The lists of vessels that have carried out fishing operations in the previous year in the tropical, Mediterranean swordfish and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries is presented in **Annex 5 of COC-303/19**.

Some reporting issues persist, such as incomplete reporting of vessel characteristics, particularly those which are mandatory. **Table 3** provides detailed information by CPC in this regard.

The Secretariat has been working with the CPCs during the intersessional period and significant progress has been made in the collection of IMO numbers. As can be seen from **Table 4**, a total of 352 vessels were reported as being justified in not having an IMO number. Of these, 343 are not commercial vessels and hence are not required to have an IMO number. Written explanation of the justification has been received from one EU vessel, and one (from Venezuela) is currently awaiting assignation of the number, leaving a total of seven commercial fishing vessels of length greater or equal to 20 meters on the ICCAT Record without IMO numbers for which no justifications have been received.

Since the Commission authorised the Secretariat to deactivate those vessels whose authorisations have expired, vessels with expired authorisations of 45 or more days are regularly moved to the ICCAT Record of Inactive Vessels.

8. Vessel Monitoring System requirements

Information on the VMS messages received at the Secretariat is contained in **Tables 4, 5 and 6** of document **COC-303/19**.

9. Flag State responsibilities

Rec. 03-12 does not require the submission of specific information; the Secretariat has nothing to report.

10. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

With the entry into force of the Rec. 18-08, the Secretariat has had to implement the new procedure. As stipulated by paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, several Circulars to both CPC and non-CPC have been sent. In terms of the process of intersessional modification of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List, in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12, the necessary contacts have been made with all the nine RFMOs; the information provided by six of them has been incorporated in the ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List as circulated to all CPC and non-CPC. The table below summarizes the results of the 2019 IUU Vessel Lists' cross-listing carried out. The provisional 2019 ICCAT IUU List, for consideration and possible adoption by the Commission, is contained in document **PWG-405/19** with the background information provided either by the EU and the six RFMOs.

<i>RFMOs</i>	<i>Addition to ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Some changes in ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>No changes</i>	<i>Total</i>
WCPFC	0	0	2	0	2
WCPFC / IATTC	0	0	1	0	1
IATTC	0	1	12	0	13
IOTC	1	10	61	0	72
IOTC / CCAMLR	0	0	3	0	3
CCAMLR	12	0	0	0	12
CCAMLR / SEAFO	1	0	0	0	1
SEAFO	1	0	0	0	1
ICCAT (Chairman and COC)	0	0	1	2	3
ICCAT (Brazil)	0	0	1	0	1
ICCAT (Japan)	0	0	3	2	5
ICCAT (EU)	1	0	9	0	10
ICCAT (Senegal)	0	0	0	1	1
ICCAT (South Africa)	0	0	0	2	2
Total	16	11	93	7	127