

LETTER FROM PANEL 1 CHAIR CLOSING THE DISCUSSIONS PERIOD WITHIN THE PANEL

Madrid, 16 December 2020

Mr. Raúl Delgado
ICCAT Chairman

I would like to thank all CPCs for their contributions to this extremely complex online process as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 December 2020, as Chair of Panel 1, I presented the conclusions of the two rounds of discussions and a roadmap for the activities of 2021 to the Commission.

Further to this report, several CPCs, including Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Korea, Nicaragua, the United States and Curaçao submitted statements. Most of them questioned the conclusions, considering the process to be discriminatory and lacking transparency or considering that their proposals had not been taken into account.

I would also like to recall that the process for this entire adoption through correspondence proposed by the Chairman of the Commission has been adopted and cannot not be changed for Panel 1 (ICCAT Circular 7324/20). I should like to point out to all CPCs that this is not my intention at all, but rather to work towards a positive outcome for better management of our fishery.

I would like to clarify that my conclusion does not mention anywhere that document PA1-502B has been adopted; it only states that it is a working and discussion document for inter-sessional work.

As regards the "*Draft supplemental recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*", I note that a consensus must be reached on the reformulation, which has not been the case at this point. In fact, a group of CPCs objected to the formulation of paragraph 1 and proposes its reformulation as follows: "*The provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-year conservation and management program for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02) of 2019 applicable to the year 2020 are extended to 2021*". Another CPC proposed that, as well as paragraph 1, paragraph 2 should also be amended as follows: "*An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2021 to review existing measures and in the event of new overages of yellowfin and/or bigeye TAC, to contemplate the adoption of a new multiannual plan for tropical tunas based on effort management*".

Mr. Chairman, at this stage of our work, I would like to bring forward to the plenary discussions of the Commission the *Draft recommendation* [document PA1-503A] and the Roadmap [document PA1-511A] for review and adoption.

As regards document PA1-502B, a CPC suggested an amendment to the table, taking into account those CPCs without historical catches to which paragraph 4 does not apply. However, I would like to reiterate that document PA1-502B is only a basis for future work and therefore should not be discussed at this stage of the process.



Shep, Helguilè
Chair of Panel 1