

STATEMENT BY MOROCCO TO PWG - SECOND ROUND

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the efforts made to continue the work of the PWG in these special health circumstances.

The Kingdom of Morocco supports the proposal to extend the provisions of Recommendation 18-12 that are due to expire (PWG_408). In our view, more time is needed to review and discuss the elements and information on these provisions than we currently have available within the framework of our work.

As regards abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, in our view, the draft forms for reporting this gear (PWG-404) contain all the information required under Recommendation 19-11. We also agree with the proposal of the United States to merge the two forms into one.

The Kingdom of Morocco supports the approach proposed by the PWG Chair for the 2021 IMM meeting, including the holding of physical and/ or virtual meetings to accelerate and consolidate the preparatory work of the issues to be addressed by IMM Working Group (in-person meetings are only envisaged if health conditions permit).

However, to raise the profile of the IMM meeting, and given the considerable number of outstanding issues of interest, or potential interest, for the work of the IMM Working Group (the elements of point 1 of PWG-400, the points approved intersessionally by Panel 2 and referred to the IMM), the Kingdom of Morocco proposes that the PWG Chair prepare a list of all the outstanding matters to be addressed by the IMM Working Group in 2021, indicating the elements which could be prepared and discussed during the preparatory work for the IMM meeting.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco wishes to recall the points that were approved intersessionally by Panel 2 and referred to the IMM, following the work of the meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures, i.e.:

- Discussion on training of national observers;
- Discussion of VMS issues (transmission frequencies, monitoring/location of transport cages);
- Preparation of a proposal to amend the provisions of Rec. 18-12 / 18-13 to include eBCD grouping in the case of internal transfer of fish from the same flag of origin / the same JFO;
- Review of data extraction from the eBCD system, including inter-fam data.

The Kingdom of Morocco requests that these points that were approved in March 2020 by Panel 2 at its intersessional meeting be included in the agenda of the upcoming work of the IMM and the corresponding preparatory work.