

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)**

(All documents mentioned in this report are available
on the 2020 Commission meeting webpage)

1. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of MCS measures (e.g. Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs; Observer and Inspection Schemes or Programmes; Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements)

As proposed in the letter from the Chair (ICCAT Circular #4379/20), it was agreed that discussion on these items would be deferred to the IMM intersessional correspondence period/meeting in 2021. The correspondence period would start in March 2021 (date TBC) followed by an in-person meeting in June 2021 if circumstances allow, otherwise an online meeting would be held. PWG members are encouraged to send working documents and proposals in order to advance the work and capitalise on the meeting in June. The working procedures for the correspondence period and meeting will be distributed in early 2021. The draft agenda for this work taking into account views expressed by PWG members is attached as XXX [PWG-422, Appendix 1A].

Statements by the EU [PWG-420 and PWG-425], Japan [PWG-424], Morocco [PWG-419], United States [PWG-413 and PWG-426] and PEW [PWG-410 and PWG-421] and Oceana [PWG-423] pertaining to this and other matters of relevance to IMM/PWG Working Group in 2021 are attached as XXX.

2. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures

The Chair of PWG put forward a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System" [PWG-408]. This proposal was supported by the European Union, Morocco and Norway.

In order to make an informed decision on this draft, the United States requested further information from the European Union through their statement attached as XXX [PWG-413]. The information requested was provided by the European Union through their statement attached as XXX [PWG-420].

Following this exchange, no further questions were raised nor were any objections received and hence the "Draft recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System" was endorsed by the PWG and put forward to the Commission plenary for adoption.

3. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The United States communicated its objection to the cross-listing IUU vessels from the RFMOs not referred to in paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08. The 30 vessels cross-listed through the 2020 IOTC IUU List were subsequently removed from the draft list. The United States also requested clarifying the scope and intent of the cross-listing provisions of its IUU vessel listing measure through future discussions of the IMM/PWG, and this has been included on the tentative agenda for the next IMM correspondence period/meeting.

Senegal requested the removal of *Mario 11* from the list however there was no support for this request, with opposition through statements from EU [PWG-417], Japan [PWG-415] and United States [PWG-416]. Senegal later requested through a statement [PWG-418] a change of flag of the *Mario 11* from Senegal to 'unknown' on the grounds that this vessel was no longer flagged to Senegal and undergoing a delisting process and for which they provided documentation [PWG-418, Appendix 1]. The United States and EU informed however that they could not support this until the documentation proving the completion of the delisting process had been provided, hence the vessel remained as flagged to Senegal on the list. The Chair

proposed to continue to discuss possible procedures for inter-sessional changes to the IUU list as possible in the context of para 8 of Rec. 18-08 during the 2021 IMM correspondence period/meeting, alongside with the issue of cross-listing procedures.

Colombia made available some additional information regarding the activities of the vessel *Haleluya*. The references to this and other relevant information received from CPCs in the establishment of the IUU List can be found in Annex XXX [PWG-405C and Appendix 1 to PWG-405C].

A Statement relating to IUU activities was presented by Oceana and is attached as XXX [PWG-423].

The EU requested two issues be referred to the COC: the operations of the Gambian vessel *Sage* [PWG-425] and the implementation of Port State Measures by Senegal [PWG-416]. They also requested, more broadly, that outstanding responses to any unanswered questions in relation to the IUU list be followed-up in the 2021 correspondence period/meeting of IMM and PWG.

4. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Based on the above, the PWG recommends to the Commission that:

- The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System* be adopted by the Commission;
- The ICCAT List of IUU vessels be adopted by the Commission, with possible discussions on intersessional modification to be held at the next IMM correspondence period/meeting;
- That an intersessional meeting of IMM be held, physically if possible, in June 2021, with initial work to be carried out during a period of correspondence commencing in March 2021 in order to make progress. The procedures for the correspondence period and other information on the meeting will be communicated to PWG members in due course;
- A virtual meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group is also foreseen in the first half of 2021 (before June 2021), the dates and proposed agenda for which will also follow in due course.