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Annex/Annexe/Anexo 1

**MEETINGS AT WHICH ICCAT WAS REPRESENTED
FROM JANUARY 2020 TO OCTOBER 2020**

SUMMARY

This document provides basic information on the meetings of an administrative and scientific nature at which ICCAT was represented by members of the Secretariat staff or by other persons acting on its behalf. The basic information on each meeting includes the main points of the agenda as well as their major implications for ICCAT.

**RÉUNIONS AUXQUELLES L'ICCAT A ÉTÉ REPRÉSENTÉE
ENTRE JANVIER 2020 ET OCTOBRE 2020**

RÉSUMÉ

Le présent document fournit des informations de base sur les réunions administratives et scientifiques auxquelles l'ICCAT a été représentée par des membres du personnel du Secrétariat ou par d'autres personnes au nom du Secrétariat. L'information de base pour chaque réunion inclut les principaux points de l'ordre du jour ainsi que les principales implications pour l'ICCAT.

**REUNIONES EN LAS QUE HA ESTADO REPRESENTADA ICCAT
ENTRE ENERO DE 2020 Y OCTUBRE DE 2020**

RESUMEN

Este documento presenta información básica sobre las reuniones administrativas y científicas en las que ICCAT estuvo representada, ya sea por miembros de la Secretaría o por otras personas que actuaron en su nombre. La información básica que se presenta para cada reunión incluye los puntos principales del orden del día y sus principales implicaciones para ICCAT.

MISSION REPORT ON ABNJ TUNA AND ABNJ PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEES

Location: Rome, Italy

Dates: 27-30 January 2020

Representative: Camille Jean Pierre Manel, Executive Secretary

Agenda items: ABNJ Tuna and ABNJ Program Steering Committees

During the first two days, the Tuna ABNJ Project held its Seventh Steering Committee meeting. This meeting was chaired by Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva and particularly reviewed the terminal evaluation of the project (still to be finalized) and the development of the second phase. The final evaluation, which initial results were positively welcomed, recommended stronger participation of stakeholders in Phase II with the promotion of champions to support the activities at the country level, an improvement of the communication and coordination of the project.

As for the preparation of the second phase of the project, the Steering Committee discussed the different proposals of activities for the reduction of the total cost, which was above US\$60 million to around US\$20 to 25 million, as informed by the Coordination of the project. In this exercise, the participants made efforts to merge proposals and incorporate more global aspects.

For the MSE proposal, the ToRs of the person to be hired will need to be defined. More implication of the other t-RFMOs was requested, such as is the case of a Steering Committee.

ICCAT informed that funds were made available for the development of the IOMS which was one of the five proposals it had submitted. However, ICCAT requested that the capacity building component should be considered in the Capacity building proposal submitted.

The capsules on Ecosystem and the one on Automated-Assessment were also discussed and consolidated.

The draft theory of change of the Tuna Project was presented and commented. It focuses on strengthening the management of tuna fisheries, the development of new tools and improvement of capacities to tackle IUU fishing and improve compliance, and reducing the environmental impact of tuna fisheries.

The ABNJ Programme Steering Committee meeting was held on 29 and 30 January 2020. The Coordination presented the five projects of the programme during this second meeting: Cross Sectoral, Sargasso Sea, Deep Sea, Tuna, and the Coordination, which has to fill the gaps encountered in the implementation during the first phase. ICCAT was particularly concerned with the Sargasso Sea project due to possible interactions with ICCAT's mandate which has recently developed, and which was stated once again during the meeting.

Future actions: The meeting provided information of the next steps: submission to GEF of the 5 projects for the future programme on 23 March 2020 and the potential initiation of Phase II in early 2022. The final selection of project proposals will be made by the Coordination of the ABNJ Programme which will notify the different proponents. The remaining funds from Phase I will be used for the preparation of studies for Phase II.

REUNION DES AUTORITES DE PECHE D'ETATS D'AMERIQUE LATINE SUR LE PROJET DE TEXTE REVISE RELATIF AU PROCESSUS BBNJ

Lieu: Panama City, Panama

Dates: 3 et 4 février 2020

Représentant: Camille Jean Pierre Manel

Point à l'ordre du jour : Discussions du texte de projet révisé du processus BBNJ

Quatorze États de l'Amérique latine, avec l'appui du projet FAO-ABNJ, se sont rencontrés pendant trois jours à l'effet d'examiner le nouveau projet de texte révisé du processus BBNJ en vue de dégager une position commune. Ont également participé à la rencontre, l'OSPESCA, l'IATTC, l'ICCAT, les autorités de la pêche du Panama et des représentants de l'industrie de la pêche du Panama.

Sur invitation des autorités de la pêche du Panama, j'ai participé à la réunion pendant la première journée et la matinée de la seconde. Le projet FAO-ABNJ a cofinancé ma participation.

La question cruciale de l'impact du futur texte sur les activités de pêche a particulièrement retenu l'attention des participants. C'est ainsi que ces derniers sont longuement revenus sur l'exclusion de la pêche dans le texte et la nécessité de considérer les instruments déjà existants à l'échelle internationale comme les ORGP.

J'ai informé que la Commission n'a pas discuté de la question lors de sa dernière réunion annuelle en novembre à Palma de Majorque (Espagne). L'ICCAT n'a donc pas dégagé de position sur le processus BBNJ. Toutefois, il demeure constant de noter la nécessité de suivre de près les éventuelles implications sur les compétences des ORGP, et notamment l'ICCAT. À cet effet, un appel continue à être lancé en vue d'une coordination au niveau national pour assurer que davantage de départements en charge de la pêche font partie des délégations qui discutent du processus à New York.

IOTC: THIRD MEETING OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) WORKING GROUP (WG)

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Dates: 10-11 February 2020

Representative: Alberto Thais Parrilla Moruno, Compliance Officer

Agenda items: The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Performance Reviews (2009 and 2015) contained recommendations that the IOTC should develop a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system, including a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). The agenda items are summarised in the following items: Summary of the two previous Skype meetings, status of membership to the CDS Working Group, three different presentations (ICCAT, CCSBT, WWF) with their corresponding Q&A, presentation on the options for an IOTC CDS and its possible specifications, such as: CDS integration with other RFMOs, species and coverage, medium of IOTC CDS.

During the meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat made a presentation describing the ICCAT Bluefin Catch Documentation Scheme and its migration to an electronic version. It also provided advice for possible introduction of a CDS in the IOTC. Since the CCSBT representative was unable to attend the meeting physically, the ICCAT Secretariat also presented the joint presentation by ICCAT/CCSBT which described the similarities and differences between CCSBT's Paper-Based CDS and ICCAT's e-BCD.

Future actions: The Working Group agreed on the following matters to be addressed prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting in 2020. The election by electronic means of a CDS Working Group Chair and the drafting of the Terms of Reference for the CDS Working Group.

Report availability:

https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2020/02/IOTC-2020-CDS_WG_meeting_R_E.pdf

CITES_FAO PLANNING MEETING: NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES) THROUGH FISHERIES LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Location: FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Dates: 17-18 February 2020

Representative: Jenny Cheatle, Head of Compliance Department, ICCAT Secretariat

Agenda items: Next steps for implementing the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) through fisheries legal frameworks.

Summary: The aim of the meeting was to finalise inputs for the development of a Guidance Document and the Group noted regarding the draft that (i) though it is about CITES implementation, it goes beyond the Convention's requirements; (ii) it is a flexible, soft, guiding instrument, which therefore is broad and covers a range of related matters, including CITES resolutions that may contain relevant interpretation of the Convention by parties; (iii) Non-detriment findings (NDF) and legal acquisition findings (LAF) are usually not separate documents that would follow the shipment, but conditions for the issuance of CITES permits

and certificates (the evidence for legal acquisition could be a catch certificate); (iv) annexes must refer to the date when they were prepared, given that they will become outdated; (v) examples of civil law countries should be provided to ensure the guide is not focused on common law countries; and (vi) the guide is for all countries, regardless of which category they are placed in under the National Legislation Project, including those in CITES category 3.

Future actions: No further action by ICCAT is necessary, although an exchange of information with CITES should be continued. Once the document has been finalised by FAO, ICCAT can help draw attention to it, in case it is of interest to CPCs.

Report availability: A brief summary was circulated to participants, but no official report will be published. The main outcomes will be the informal guidelines which will be published by FAO in the future.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION – SUB-COMMITTEE ON NONDELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF CETACEANS, HIM

Location: Online meeting

Dates: 11-24 May 2020

Representative: Nathan G. Taylor, ICCAT By-catch Coordinator

Agenda items: The meeting on human-induced mortality consisted of a review of assorted standing Working Groups of the Sub-Committee of Human-Induced Mortality at the International Whaling Commission and their engagement with RMFOs.

Summary: The By-catch Coordinator participated for one day at the meeting. The principle role of the By-catch Coordinator was to provide a summary of his review of the IWC's report on Regional Fishery Management Organization Efforts in Addressing Cetacean By-catch.

Future actions: None.

Report availability: The report will be made available in the IWC web site.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WATER FISHERIES

Location: Online meeting

Dates: 15-18 June 2020

Representative: Nathan G. Taylor and Mauricio Ortiz, Department of Research and Statistics, ICCAT Secretariat

Agenda items: The meeting agenda covered the items related to area-based fisheries management: objectives and performance metrics, management measure designs, empirical evidence, research needs, methods review, and social impact assessment.

Summary: The meeting broke-up into subgroups to discuss the main agenda items. The Secretariat took the responsibility to draft text on Objective and Performance Metrics and Empirical Evidence section.

Future actions: A primary publication will be submitted for peer review in Fisheries Research summarizing the conclusion of the workshop.

Report availability: Will be submitted for publication in late 2020.

GFCM ONLINE FORUM: BUILDING FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESILIENCE POST COVID-19 CRISIS - WEBINAR 1: THE EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Location: Online Meeting

Dates: 25 June 2020

Representative: Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Agenda items: Experience in response to the COVID-19 crisis of International Organizations.

Summary: This online forum was the first of a series of three webinars in the broader context of the ongoing "GFCM Online Forum on the impacts of Covid-19 on fisheries and aquaculture". The panelists were: Mr. Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary, Mr. Darius Campbell, NEAFC Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdelouahed Benabbou, ATLAFCO Executive Secretary, Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP-MAP Coordinator, Ms. Iryna Makarenko, BSCPS Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer.

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel shared ICCAT's experience in a five minutes presentation addressing the severe impacts of Covid-19 on the work of the Commission. The ICCAT Commission agreed to reschedule several meetings and rely, as much as possible, on virtual meetings, in particular scientific meetings. Mr. Manel informed that, although the plenary of the SCRS and the 2020 ICCAT annual Commission meeting had been cancelled, the way forward was being discussed among CPCs with the purpose of focusing only on relevant issues. Mr. Manel noted that the lessons learned from this situation will contribute, inter alia, to advance in the use of information technology, streamlining the work of organizations, and fill gaps where identified. Mr. Manel finally added that there was a need to build resilience and to share the lessons learned from facing these current challenges as a result of the Covid-19.

Report availability: <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/online-forum/25-june/en/>

REGIONAL COORDINATION GROUP ON LARGE PELAGICS (RCG LP) 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Location: Online meeting

Dates: 25-26 June 2020

Representative: Carlos Palma (Biostatistician), Mauricio Ortiz (Head of ICCAT Science and Statistics Department) and Francisco Alemany (GBYP Coordinator)

Agenda items: The main agenda items were the following:

- RCG LP global structure: approval of the RCG LP current structure; focal points for each stage/subgroup; global overview of the data collection process by countries/fisheries and discussion about a list of large pelagic species and by-catch species associated;
- Summaries on RCG LP subgroups (tropical tunas, longline fisheries outside Mediterranean, Mediterranean LP fisheries, bluefin tuna, baitboat/ pole and line);
- Organization of further RCG LP meetings;
- RCG LP administration and coordination with other RCG;
- RFMO feedback (data needs, data transmission failures and data calls);
- RCG LP regional database;
- Global overview of LP sampling programs.

Summary: The RCG LP 2020 annual meeting focused on reviewing the progress of intersessional work since 2019, and discussing around the key areas of regional coordination in fisheries data collection, including: governance, regional sampling plans, identifying end-user needs and data quality control. Participants included scientist, experts and/or National Correspondents from Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain as well as DG MARE (European Commission), ICCAT, IOTC and ICES representatives. The meeting dealt with topics such as: data transmission failures to tuna RFMOs, regional database, priorities in terms of data needs, feasibility for the collection of biological variables and the current structure of the RCG LP including the expansion to further sub-groups. The Group approved by consensus that a common database should be used and agreed that the RDBES hosted by ICES will be the selected option, pending approval by the NCs.

The ICCAT Secretariat participated as one of the potential beneficiaries of the outcomes planned by the RCG-LP on the provision by EU Member States of fisheries and biological data, through the EU data collection framework (DCF), which has the potential to be used in ICCAT by EU Member States to fulfil their data obligations. The Secretariat presented to the Group the various aspects of the ICCAT data collection system, namely the data call process, the types of fisheries and biological data and respective formats, the submission and the validation process using some of the SCRS instruments recently developed (filtering criteria, report cards, catalogues, and scorecard). Special attention was given to the way the data transmission failures are handled by EU and ICCAT in relation to the EU Member States data provision. The Group recognised that the existing practice of sending EU (DG-MARE) a yearly report on "EU reporting status" is a good instrument used to track the data provision failures with some level of detail of EU Member States. The Secretariat noted that the report still has potential for improvements in the future. ICCAT representatives also stressed the importance of coordination between EU-DCF and ICCAT special programmes that include sampling activities. In addition, it was noted that current sampling needs to be reviewed in lieu of the requirements for the stock assessment. The importance of the interaction between data users was highlighted. As regards the SCRS, coordinating an effective sampling and data provision to support the scientific evaluations of the stock of interest to ICCAT.

Future actions: Participate in future meetings. Keep contacts with relevant RCG LP subgroup chairs to coordinate DCF and ICCAT large pelagics sampling programs. Monitor the development of RCG LP database as a tool

Report availability: The report will be made available.

FISH AND SHIPS WORKSHOP (ATLANTIC SESSION)

Location: Online meeting

Dates: 30-31 July 2020

Representative: Francisco Alemany, GBYP Coordinator, and Nathan Taylor, ICCAT By-catch Coordinator

Agenda items: The meeting was structured in:

- lightning talks describing tagging programs, or providing examples of ecological and oceanographic modelling projects with biologging data and the use of ship AIS data sets;
- whole group brainstorming sessions about opportunities and challenges to bringing fish and ships datasets together, strengths and limitations of both datasets and how can we best understand the habitat that fish live in and fisheries operate in;
- break-out sessions on fish tracking data sets, vessel tracking datasets, biological drivers of fish, oceanographic drivers of fish, drivers of fishing, interpreting fish and ships overlap, metrics for fish and ships overlap and cross-referencing fisheries datasets.

Summary: The objective of this workshop was to better understand the challenges and the benefits of combining pelagic fish biologging data with vessel tracking datasets. The participants included 70 scientists and fishery managers who worked together to identify new research projects and collaborations in the vessel tracking and animal tracking communities to answer critical questions about how mapping fish and ships can inform on the interactions between fish and humans. Potential project ideas arising from the workshop discussions included:

- Identifying oceanic hotspots of overlap between tunas, billfishes, and industrial fishing fleets;
- Determining the oceanographic drivers of fish and ships temporal and spatial patterns;
- Improving predictions of catch and/or by-catch by comparing vessel tracking, animal telemetry, and official datasets of catch and effort;
- Detection of oceanic Hot Spots from fish and ships tracking datasets;

- Validation experiments to compare manufacturer and research community tag location algorithms.

The next steps agreed were as follows:

1. Preparing funding proposals to facilitate collaborative Fish & Ships projects;
2. Building working groups and/or an overall steering committee to enable collaborations, data sharing and coordinate fund raising efforts;
3. Identify and make initial progress on projects that can be undertaken with existing resources.

Future actions: Participate in future meetings of the project and analyse and answer possible requests for collaborating in research initiatives.

Report availability: (including link if available).

2020 VIRTUAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPLIANCE IN RFMOs

Location: Online

Dates: 7-8 and 10 September 2020

Representative: Alberto Thais Parrilla Moruno, Compliance Officer

Agenda items: The Pew Charitable Trusts, in collaboration with ISSF and other stakeholders, convened a Virtual Expert Workshop to address some of the current gaps in RFMO compliance and identify possible solutions, as further work is necessary to ensure good RFMO performance in this area.

The scope of the workshop was focused on arrangements and practice in compliance-related matters in the tuna RFMOs, as a first step of a series of workshops and activities aimed at identifying best practices in compliance across RFMOs. For this purpose, experts from RFMO Secretariats, RFMO Compliance Committees, international organizations, academia, and civil society were brought together.

The workshop focused on three fundamental issues for improved compliance in RFMOs: Information management and reporting for compliance review and assessment, RFMO processes and procedures to review and assess compliance and outcomes of compliance review and assessment procedures.

Future actions: PEW plans to hold a second Expert Workshop in 2021, hopefully in person, as part of this roadmap. All workshop participants are also encouraged to attend this next Expert Workshop and stay involved in future activities aimed at enhancing compliance in RFMOs.

Report availability: All the workshop documentation, materials and the current draft versions of the reports are located in a dedicated online platform (Basecamp).

17TH LIAISON (SUB-GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION) MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIRS OF RCGS & PGECON, STECF MEETINGS ON DCF, RDB STEERING GROUPS, KEY END USERS, JRC AND THE COMMISSION

Location: Virtual meeting (WebEx)

Dates: 24-25 September 2020

Representative: Carlos Palma (Biostatistician), Francisco Alemany (GBYP Coordinator), Carlos Mayor (Database developer)

Main agenda items: The main agenda items, associated with the Terms of Reference of the Liaison Sub-group, were: Discussion with End Users (roles and future legislative developments, needs and interaction, COVID-19 impact and remedial actions); Data handling (Regional Coordination Group (RCG) data calls, End User data calls and RFMO reporting obligations, progress achieved in regional databases and problems identified, future developments for regional databases); Discussion on possible follow-up to the main output/recommendations (specific to the Liaison Group and generic ones) for future intersessional work; Governance (RCGs follow-up on RoP developments, RCG and PGECON structures and cooperation).

Summary: The Secretariat has participated for the second time in the meetings of the Liaison Sub-group. A short presentation was given describing ICCAT in terms of mandate, functional structure, regulatory process and the associated data requirements. It was also described the current ICCAT data collection process, and the importance of obtaining good quality and timely data from their Parties, noting that the European Union is one of the most important ICCAT Parties with nearly 40% of the total catches (from 18 EU Member States) of all ICCAT species every year. It was noted that the scientific data compiled by ICCAT have a closer relation with the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF). Given the EU importance to ICCAT in terms of scientific data needs the DCF has the potential to be the major EU scientific data provider system, replacing the current submission process. The ICCAT-GBYP program coordinator stressed the importance of increasing the coordination between ICCAT special scientific programs biological sampling and those carried out under the DCF to take advantage of the potential synergies. It was remembered that first contacts, including submission of detailed information about biological sampling carried out within ICCAT special scientific programs as GBYP, has been already maintained between ICCAT and RCG LP representatives.

In line with the other t-RFMOs, ICCAT has also described the impact of COVID-19 in the normal workload, and the measures implemented to reduce its impact by the early adoption (March 2020) of the “remote work” at the Secretariat headquarters, and by rescheduling the 2020 meeting arrangements “in-person” to accommodate them “online” (TEAMS platform), with only a few meetings cancelled. Moreover, it was also explained that, having the SCRS annual “online” obliged the Secretariat to advance in one month (Sept/Oct to Aug/Sept) the 2020 data preparation which included all the new 2019 data reported. Nevertheless, this task was fully accomplished without any impact in the SCRS annual meeting and the correspondent advice to the Commission.

Future actions: ICCAT, as a potential “End User” of the DCF system in the future, should participate whenever possible in meetings of the Liaison Sub-group and other Regional Coordination Sub-groups. An annual meeting of the Liaison Sub-group is planned for 2021.

Report availability: The report is not yet published (TBA).

MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEDAC

Location: Online Meeting

Dates: 29 September 2020

Representative: Mauricio Ortiz

Agenda items: Presentation on the status of the Mediterranean large pelagic species according to the results of the ICCAT Scientific Committee meeting.

The Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC) role includes the preparation of opinions on fisheries management and socio-economic aspects in support of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean, to be submitted to the Member States and the European institutions in order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the European Union Common Fisheries Policy. The ICCAT Secretariat was invited to attend the meeting and Mauricio Ortiz provided a presentation on the recent findings of the SCRS on the status of the stocks of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, Mediterranean albacore, Mediterranean swordfish, and Mediterranean billfish stocks.

The Council was updated on the results of the assessment for East Atlantic Bluefin tuna stock and management advice for 2021 and 2022 to maintain a TAC of 36,000 t. Nonetheless, the SCRS considers that the MSE process is the best means of developing robust management advice for the bluefin tuna stocks given its complexities. Thus, the Committee continues to support the development and implementation of the MSE process in the upcoming years.

The results of the 2020 Mediterranean swordfish stock assessment were presented, noting that the stock is overfished but not likely experiencing overfishing. The management advice for this stock that is under a rebuilding plan, indicated that a TAC of 10,000 t or lower will allow the recovery of the stock by 2028 with at least a 60% probability. It was also indicated that in recent years the levels of swordfish discards in the longline fisheries has increased and that reporting of these discards is incomplete.

For the Mediterranean albacore stock, it was indicated that an assessment is scheduled for 2021. Therefore, the Committee recommendations focus on improving the data and information available for the upcoming evaluation including; indices of abundance CPUE for the eastern Mediterranean albacore fisheries, review and collation of all age-length information for updating the growth curve for Mediterranean albacore, and development of an albacore larval index from major spawning areas in the Mediterranean.

Stakeholders noted the recent increases of bluefin tuna in several areas of the Mediterranean highlighting their predation impact on the small pelagic stocks such as sardines and anchovies and their effects on local fisheries. It was indicated the need for studies that take in to account the interactions among species and wider ecosystem approach evaluation for better management of the Mediterranean fisheries resources. It was also indicated the need of evaluating the effects of the current management measures for Mediterranean swordfish in terms of the area/time closures and its impact on discards of swordfish in all fisheries. Finally, the group noted the limited information of recreational and sport fisheries for the Mediterranean albacore and the need of this data for better management of this important fishery component.

Future actions: MEDAC highlighted the importance of the contribution of the Secretariat to the meeting and expressed its willingness to continue with this collaboration.

Report availability: MEDAC will post the meeting report on its webpage (<http://en.med-ac.eu/>).