

The Pew Charitable Trusts' Statement during PWG's second comment period November 2020

In response to the Chair's specific request for comments (PWG_414) about his proposed way forward in 2021 and the need to work via correspondence prior to an intersessional meeting of IMM, The Pew Charitable Trusts offers the following.

Pew believes very strongly that an IMM meeting must happen in 2021, as IMM – perhaps more than any other intersessional ICCAT meeting – sets the stage for success at the Commission meeting in the fall. We share the Chair's opinion that there is much work for PWG in 2021 and agree that CPCs will need to collaborate, bilaterally and multilaterally, ahead of the special virtual meetings and the proposed in-person meeting over the summer. Even if that meeting is unable to happen in person, it should go on in the virtual format, to the best of our abilities. We direct PWG's attention to the letter that Mr. Shingo Ota sent to Panel 2 (PA2_618), where he provides very specific guidance about what exactly CPCs should prepare ahead of each meeting and when they should submit it. Pew supports looking forward to similar specific guidance to PWG to guide the work of CPCs in the first quarter of next year.

We would also like to redraw your attention to Pew's opening statement to PWG (PWG_410), where we highlighted several of the issues that we understand either would have happened this year or next year under normal circumstances and that we believe should be near the top of the PWG priority list as the Chair and members develop an agenda and work plan for intersessional work between now and next summer. These issues, include:

- Improving reporting and monitoring of transshipment activity to minimize opportunities that facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain.
- Developing an electronic monitoring (EM) program to complement human observer coverage.
- Increasing the use of IMO numbers to uniquely identify ICCAT fishing vessels and reduce the ability for illegal operators to fish in the ICCAT Convention Area.
- Ensuring CPCs comply with ICCAT's port State measures and related information exchange requirements.
- Effectively deterring nationals (both physical and legal persons) from any activities related to illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the way forward for PWG and IMM.