

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2
(Online, 2-5 March 2021)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for the meeting.

Alberto Thais Parrilla Moruno from the Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur for the first part of the meeting. Nathan Taylor was appointed for the second part.

3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Panel reviewed the draft Agenda, which was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Japan requested that two Japanese companies be allowed to make the presentations under Item 7a) of the Agenda on growth ratios and the use of the latest technologies for this purpose. This request was approved.

The Executive Secretary explained the meeting arrangements and introduced the participating delegations. **Appendix 2** lists the delegates from each participating CPC, and observers.

The Assistant Executive Secretary gave a brief introduction about the operational aspects of the meeting. The meeting times and some minimum operational rules for Zoom were indicated.

The United States of America (USA) requested clarification on the process for adoption of the report and the Chair confirmed that the report will be approved by correspondence.

4. Consideration of fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for 2021 presented by CPCs

The Chair recalled that questions and comments on the fishing, capacity inspection and farming plans had been submitted in advance by the European Union (EU), Japan, Korea, Norway and the USA. The questions, together with the responses which had been received by the start of the meeting, were compiled and contained, together with additional questions and responses received during the meeting in **Appendix 3**.

The Chair of Panel 2 stated that the operation of the meeting would be different from normal. The questions and responses were provided before the meeting and all the plans presented were revised versions, with the aim of addressing the majority of the issues raised. The Chair expected to review all the plans on the first day, and the revised plans, based on the discussions of the first day, would be submitted for approval by the end of the second session on 3 March 2021. If plans were not approved in this meeting, they would be subject to approval through correspondence.

The Chair of Panel 2 suggested that the plans be reviewed in alphabetical order as usual.

Albania

Questions on the Albanian fishing plan had been submitted by the EU and Japan. Albania had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Albania was requested.

Albania indicated that its plan was very similar to last year's. References to obsolete Recommendations had been changed. 1 t was set aside for bycatch, and this quantity was allocated to purse seiners or vessels targeting small pelagic species in the Adriatic Sea.

It was indicated that the plan continued to refer to Rec. 18-02. Since the other CPCs did not raise any other questions about the plan, Albania was asked to submit the plan with this correction.

Albania submitted a revised plan updating the Rec. 18-02 references to Rec. 19-04.

Algeria

Questions on the Algerian fishing plan had been submitted by the EU, Japan and the USA. Algeria had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. More information was requested by the EU about the increase in the number of purse seiners by some CPCs (>20% ceiling) and Japan about the figure in the Algerian bycatch quota.

Algeria indicated that its plan included the changes suggested in the questions received from other CPCs. It was confirmed that the quota and capacity figures contained an error; the correct figure for bycatch is 5 t, not 0.5 t. As regards the question raised by the USA, Algeria indicated that there would be 100% national observer coverage in the BFT fishing campaign, in addition to regional observers. As regards the question raised by the EU, Algeria confirmed that it was planning to increase its fleet in accordance with Rec. 19-04, paras 18 and 22a, as a developing State. Due to adverse weather conditions, Algeria had to request an extension of the fishing season last year so as to approach its established quota. For this reason, Algeria was planning to increase its fishing capacity.

The EU expressed a general concern about the increase in fleet indicated in the plans of several CPCs, despite the limits established in Rec. 19-04. The EU signalled that this increase, afforded by the Recommendation to developing States, would apply only if the CPC concerned can show that it effectively needs to do so to reach its quota. In this context, the EU asked Algeria if it reached its quota in 2020 with its existing fleet.

Algeria indicated that in 2020 it consumed 1,648 t of its allocated quota of 1,655 t, including bycatch. This quantity was reached after requesting a 10-day extension. In accordance with Rec. 19-04 para. 22a), and on the basis of these data, Algeria provided its rationale for the proposed increase in its fleet, noting further that the paragraph does not refer to percentages of used quota to justify the increase. In addition, Algeria explained that bluefin tuna is only targeted by tuna purse seine vessels.

The EU indicated that Algeria almost consumed its entire quota, yet proposed to add four more tuna purse seiners. Algeria should reconsider the number of vessels that it plans to add and that a lower number of purse seiners, 27 for example, would be a more appropriate number.

The USA expressed support for the EU's intervention noting that capacity must be commensurate with fishing possibilities. Future plans should include greater detail on how CPCs are adhering to paras 20 and 22 of Rec. 19-04.

Algeria agreed to reduce the number of vessels initially included in its plan from 30 to 28 and modified its plan accordingly.

The EU accepted this modification but reminded the Panel that the number of vessels indicated in the fishing plans does not constitute a 'historical right' and that those numbers shall be reviewed once the SCRS updates the catch rates.

China

Questions on the Chinese fishing plan had been submitted by the EU, Japan and the USA. China had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from China was requested by the EU and Japan. The USA asked for more detail about the designated port of Dakar. China answered this follow-up question.

China indicated that this year's plan would be the same as last year's. It included all the information requested and the corrections required through the comments of the different CPCs: Dakar as the designated port and establishment of 1 t for bycatch and/or discards, given that last year no bycatch was taken.

The USA asked China to confirm that they are landing bluefin tuna only in the designated port of Dakar, and that no transshipment in port or at sea is occurring. China clarified that it intended to land bluefin tuna only in Dakar, and to comply with Senegal's legislation, as a Contracting Party. China confirmed that no transshipment of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna will occur in port or at sea.

In response to a question on where fish would go after landing if no in-port transshipment would take place, China stated that fish would be transferred from fishing vessels to containers, which is not categorized as in-port transshipment, and then delivered to China for consumption.

China submitted a revised plan to more specifically address the issue of transshipment and to establish Dakar as the designated port for landing. This version also corrected the quota figures for China as the Chair suggested: 102 t as the initial quota and 101 t as the adjusted quota after assigning 1 t for bycatch purposes.

Egypt

Questions on the Egyptian fishing plan had been submitted by the EU and Japan. Egypt submitted a revised plan, but some concerns remained.

Egypt indicated that its allocated quota and that the purse seiners in the Mediterranean would be controlled by the competent authorities which would distribute licenses and report these vessels to the Secretariat. The references to obsolete recommendations had been corrected. Egypt reported that it had never experienced bycatch and that any catch would be controlled by fishery inspectors.

Egypt submitted a revised version with the corrections suggested by the Chair regarding transfer of fish to farms, which must be monitored: "shall" instead of "should" in page 1, "Decree Number (828) for the year 2011" paragraph.

European Union

Questions on the European Union's fishing plan had been submitted by Japan, Korea and the USA. The EU had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from the EU was requested by Korea. Japan requested more information about transposition of Rec.19-04 into EU regulation, to which the EU responded in writing.

The EU commented that its plan is very similar to last year's, and it welcomed the comments from the various Contracting Parties. The plan would set out the total number of vessels, available quota, as well as the quota for bycatch. The reserve would be larger this year to accommodate any unforeseen circumstance. Observers would follow all the related provisions established in Rec. 19-04 para 83. Tagging for research would continue in accordance with the recommendation. Farming on active farms with the relevant controls would be maintained. Participation in the joint inspection programme would be maintained. The EU also indicated its intention to carryover some of its unused quota from 2020.

The USA requested more details on the sectorial quota: fleet, gears and additional regulations to control these segments of the fleet. The EU indicated that it was complex due to the nature of these fisheries in Member States. The USA requested that the EU's 2022 fishing plan include more details on this aspect.

The EU undertook to provide the most detailed information possible for next year and submitted an updated plan incorporating the Chair's comments on the capacity table.

The Chair signalled that in light of the quota transfer from the EU to the UK (48.40 t), this amount should be deducted from the EU allocation. The EU confirmed that the transfer was being subject to its internal process and that it would submit a revised plan reflecting the reduction once the process would be finished (see Item 5 for further details).

The EU submitted a revised version including the changes related to its capacity table and made some corrections to figures regarding its Member States' vessels.

Iceland

Questions on the fishing plan from Iceland had been submitted by the EU, Japan and the USA. Iceland had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Iceland was requested by these CPCs.

Iceland presented the information contained in its plan. Iceland reported that there would only be two longliners fishing for bluefin tuna; the regional observers plan would not therefore be applicable. Iceland considered that the capacity plans would be improved through addition of a line to indicate bycatch quota. The bycatch in the table clearly showed how variable it can be, between 0 and 10 t. Iceland would have sufficient control to ensure that its allocated quota would not be exceeded.

Japan

Questions on the fishing plan from Japan had been submitted by the EU and the USA. Japan had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Japan was requested.

Japan confirmed that its plan was almost identical to last year's. It is a provisional plan given that Japan's campaign would start in August. Japan would submit a revised plan including the list of vessels with individual quotas before the start of the campaign.

Japan also confirmed that it expected to see improvement in the COVID-19 situation before August 1 so that Japan can place observers on board its longliners, but at the same time would start considering establishment of a contingency plan in case this is not possible. As regards tags, it was not possible to deliver additional plastic national tags due to the pandemic in the 2020 fishing season, but for the 2021 fishing season, a sufficient number of official tags would be delivered in advance to avoid a similar situation.

Korea

Questions on the fishing plan from Korea had been submitted by the EU and the USA. Korea had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Korea was requested.

Korea presented its plan which was very similar to last year's. The changes concerned the intention to carry over unused quota from last year. Given that the fishing industry has 3 subsectors in the Atlantic Ocean and that the fishing ground for BFT is far away from others, the probability of bycatch occurring would be minimal.

Korea confirmed that Cape Town, Dakar and Cabo Verde would be used for in-port transshipment among the designated ports.

An updated plan was submitted to include the clarifications requested by the Chair regarding transshipments and designated ports.

Libya

Questions on the fishing plan from Libya had been submitted by the EU and Japan. Libya had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Libya was requested.

Libya reported that this year's plan was virtually identical to last year's. The only changes were that a different decree is cited with respect to last year's plan and the inclusion of all ICCAT recommendations related to bluefin tuna.

Libya submitted a revised plan reflecting these changes.

Morocco

Questions on the fishing plan from Morocco had been submitted by the EU, Japan, Norway and the USA. Morocco had submitted a revised plan, and responses to the questions raised.

Morocco confirmed that this year's plan was very similar to last year's. Morocco noted a carry-over of the unused quota from 2020 to this year, and a quota would be established for all types of bycatch.

The Chair pointed out that Morocco first had to request such carry over, which would have to be approved by Panel 2 and proposed that the wording of this sentence in Morocco's plan be modified.

The EU asked Morocco how it would carry out random controls on farms. Morocco explained that the last version of the plan submitted explained the procedure comprising different steps to carry out these controls: control of traceability records introduced and control by transfer operation. A transfer controlled by camera for this monitoring will be done for 5% of fish, given that intra-farm transfers performed by the operator are taken into account in the risk analysis, since, from an operational perspective, the operator may require intra-farm transfers and that all these transfers are controlled by conventional camera and monitored by the authority.

Morocco submitted an amended plan which included clarification regarding the request for carryover of underage.

The USA commented that the capacity table of Morocco was submitted using an old version. The Chair did not consider it a major issue as the figure for under/overcapacity was correct, but informed the meeting that the Secretariat and he were discussing a better format with more detailed instruction for CPCs to fill out.

Norway

The Panel noted that the plan submitted by Norway was accompanied by a document, entitled *Live storage of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in Norway: initial trials*.

Questions on the fishing plan from Norway had been submitted by the EU and Japan. Norway had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised.

Norway explained that its capacity management plan was very similar to last year's. If its request was approved to carry over a portion of the unused quota from 2020 to 2021, it would be used for research. In 2020 regional observers were not allowed to embark due to the pandemic, but Norway collaborated closely with the Programme. In 2021, Norway intends to embark regional observers, but this would depend on the progression of the pandemic.

Norway also submitted two SCRS papers¹; *Fishing Capacity on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna by Purse Seine Vessels Fishing in the Norwegian EEZ from 2014 To 2019* (SCRS/2020/017) and, for information, *Live Storage of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in Norway: Initial Trials*, to be presented in 2021.

Norway asked if any information on catch rates had been submitted by other CPCs and suggested that it be a priority for all CPCs.

The Chair noted that as regards catch rates and revision by the SCRS, there was no definitive document yet, but that this was an issue of concern for several CPCs since many figures were outdated and did not reflect the real data. The Chair proposed to discuss this following the endorsement of the plans. As regards the plan, the Chair informed Norway that several figures should be changed if the carry-over was approved.

Norway submitted a new plan which included a correction made by the Chair referring to the amount allocated for the purpose of tag and release, 4 t instead of 1t, and updated the research amount .

Syria

Questions on the fishing plan from Syria had been submitted by the EU and the USA. Syria had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. No further clarification from Syria was requested.

¹ Not attached; SCRS documents are published in the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers*.

Although Syria was not present at the meeting, the Chair proposed to discuss its fishing plan. The issues raised were addressed and there were no comments on the updated plan.

Tunisia

Questions on the fishing plan from Tunisia had been submitted by the EU, Japan and the USA. Tunisia had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. The EU requested more information about the increase in the number of purse seiners by some CPCs (>20% ceiling).

Tunisia indicated that its fishing plan was practically identical to last year's. A revised version reflected the comments of the different CPCs. In addition, Tunisia requested that the underage from last year be carried over to 2021, most of which will be for purse seiners. The capacity table had been corrected in line with the comments received, as well as the bycatch, as requested by Norway. Tunisia would maintain the same number of purse seiners as last year.

In response to suggestions from the Chair and the USA, Tunisia submitted a revised version of its plan including the bycatch in its quota calculations: An initial quota of 2,655 t + a carry-over of 21.55 t gives a total quota of 2,676.55 t, out of which 26.55 t would be subtracted as bycatch. Therefore, the adjusted quota to be distributed among the Tunisian vessels would be 2,650 t.

These figures and calculations were included in the plan and the detailed footnote in the capacity table.

Turkey

Questions on the fishing plan from Turkey had been submitted by the EU and Japan. Turkey had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised. The EU requested more information about the increase in the number of purse seiners by some CPCs (>20% ceiling).

Turkey introduced its plan with quota details and fleet. They had received a number of corrections to the capacity table.

As in the case of Algeria, the EU noted the increase in vessels dedicated to bluefin tuna fishing contained in Turkey's plan for 2021 and requested details for assessment of this request to increase from 27 vessels in 2020 to 36 in 2021.

Turkey replied that last year 36 vessels were initially included in its fishing plan, but then 27 vessels were authorised. Given that the quota was maintained, the same approach would be used. In addition, Turkey believed that this increase in capacity would be consistent with Rec. 19-04 para 20-22, which requires CPCs to calculate the capacity based on the catch rates.

As in the case of Algeria, the EU asked whether Turkey had consumed its full quota for 2020 as the EU needed to know the reason for increasing the number of vessels.

Turkey reported a consumption of 2,250 t against a total allocated quota of 2305 t. Turkey informed the Panel that it did not have a specific fleet for bluefin tuna, which is why an approximate number of vessels would be initially established (a maximum of 36 in this case) which would eventually be reduced when the definitive list (e.g. 27 last year) would be drawn up.

Subsequently, Turkey submitted a revised plan changing the number of purse seiners and a statement for the record that:

Turkey has indicated in its revised fishing capacity plan a maximum of 33 fishing vessels (i.e. 29 purse seiners over 40 m and 4 purse seiners between 24 m and 40 m) as the ceiling for BFT Catching Vessels that could be authorized in 2021. Notwithstanding, Turkey does not expect to authorize more than 30 vessels considering the past practices, in accordance with domestic procedures.

The EU accepted this explanation, but again affirmed its wish that the number of vessels indicated in the fishing plans be reviewed once the SCRS updates the catch rates.

United Kingdom

Questions on the fishing plan from the UK had been submitted by the EU and the USA. The UK had submitted a revised plan, and response to the questions raised.

The Chair explained that the UK had for the first time submitted its fishing plan for BFT as a result of Brexit and drew the attention of members to two circulars that had been sent detailing the quota transfers between the EU and the UK based on the trade and cooperation agreement between these two Contracting Parties.

The UK confirmed that it would receive 0.25% of the EU quota share and that it was a private agreement between two Parties which would not impact the TAC or the other Contracting Parties on the understanding that there was a need to formalise these changes to shares in line with ICCAT procedures at the annual Commission meeting.

The plan included amounts which would be set aside for bycatch and a scientific recreational “catch and release tag” (“CHART”) programme. There would not be a directed commercial fishery. The electronic tagging activities would be maintained.

The EU asked the UK about the CHART programme and whether it would be conducted in accordance with Rec. 19-04 para 45.

The UK confirmed that this programme would come under that paragraph and indicated it would provide details in its revised plan. In addition, the UK confirmed that all dead specimens during the activity of this programme would be counted against the UK quota.

The UK submitted a revised plan based on the discussion.

Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei noted that although Chinese Taipei had submitted a fishing plan, it would continue to prohibit its vessels from fishing eastern bluefin tuna in 2021. Chinese Taipei would report any bycatch taken by their vessels.

5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4

The Panel endorsed all the plans presented under Item 4 during the meeting. The endorsed plans are included in **Appendix 4**.

The EU reported that following the communication to ICCAT of the quota transfer for bluefin tuna resulting from the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the EU was in the process of implementing this transfer into EU legislation, including notably how it would be financed. This internal process was expected to be completed in the near future and an updated fishing plan would be sent to ICCAT as soon as completed.

The EU also reiterated its concerns regarding possible overfishing with the increasing number of vessels and the need to revise the best estimated catch rates, noting that the number of vessels in the future may need to decrease if these rates change significantly. Their statement is attached in **Appendix 5**.

The rapporteur for the SCRS EBFT Working Group presented an updated EBFT catch rate analysis. He provided a brief history of the procedure to estimate catch rates and of the current opportunity to obtain estimates of catch per unit of effort. This involved integrating the nominal catch per unit effort by vessel that is available from the Secretariat’s data sources; defining a time-series for a core fleet selected from those vessels that had consistent operations and catch of EBFT; as well as linking with VMS and eBCD data. The presentation noted the importance of characterizing Joint Fishing Operations, that in recent years each fishing operation tended to be conducted by only one vessel out of several vessels participating in the joint fishing operation. This analysis would be presented to the BFT Species Group and at the plenary of the SCRS in 2021.

Panel 2 discussed the presentation and requested some clarifications. It was clarified that the core-fleet analysis would be for all vessels, including those operating outside the Mediterranean. In addition, VMS only applies to vessels greater than 15 m, meaning that there were no data for vessels below this length, but most of the catches came from larger vessels. It was also clarified that the new analysis would be done on a vessel-by-vessel basis which had the advantage of removing those vessels that are not actively fishing that may have been included in the 2009 analysis which was conducted based on aggregated data.

It was pointed out that an additional benefit of using eBCD and the VMS data in this way would be that it could properly account for the number of vessels that are actively fishing (typically one) in Joint Fishing Operations. The EU stated that it would be useful to compare the 2009 and the new methodology for continuity and comparison purposes. Panel 2 also expressed concern that the new method would likely have the chance to inflate catch-rate estimates given that non-active fishing vessels were removed. Norway noted that the existing (2009) catch rates were no longer fit for purpose. They emphasized the importance of developing a valid catch rate methodology.

Reports to the SCRS from CPCs are still needed for this catch rate analysis using their own detailed catch data. The Chair noted the importance that CPCs carry out their own analysis of catch rates for EBFT, as had been presented by Norway, because they would have access to better and more detailed information. To conclude, it was noted that the expected output of average catch rates by vessel type and gear type, should be used with caution when converted to fishing capacity as other factors need to be considered.

The Secretariat presented the new version of the CP47 form, attached in **Appendix 6**, which includes modifications such as: A new entry for designated ports, and adjustment of fishing capacity, and new footnotes for quotas, bycatch, etc. The Chair commented that the changes made in the capacity table structure as well as addition of footnotes were meant to make it easier for the CPCs to complete it. These changes are provisional and subject to any amendment in the appropriate recommendation.

6. Clarification requested by the ROP consortium regarding Rec. 19-04

On the basis of the responses received from Algeria, the EU, the USA, and Turkey, the Chair of Panel 2 had prepared a consolidated document attached in **Appendix 7** containing a draft response to the consortium which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The document provided a set of topics, the requested clarifications and suggested responses to each topic. The meeting discussed each topic one by one.

Inter-farm transfers: The Chair confirmed the necessity of changing the form in the Rec. 19-04 Annex 4 for covering all the required records of the inter-farm transfers in a single document. Morocco noted that Rec. 19-04 does not consider adequately this type of transfers because it does not define an ITD for inter-farm transfer and in reality these transfers are composed of two different operations: a transfer between the donor farm and the transport cage and caging from the transport cage to the recipient farm as between farms, reported in an ITD and an ICD, respectively.

The Chair noted that Rec. 19-04 para 3h) needs to be modified to define in a more detailed way a “transfer”, including the whole process of an inter-farm transfer.

The Chair noted that a short-term solution was needed, and proposed that for the 2021 fishing season, the observers would use the current form including a note regarding this situation. The EU supported this as an interim step until Rec. 19-04 is amended.

Voluntary control / control transfers: There were no comments for the three first items related this topic. However, Algeria requested more information about the fourth and when the observer should issue a PNC. After some discussion, the Chair suggested a modification to the response for this item.

Three CPCs (the EU, the USA and Morocco) submitted comments regarding this topic, but discrepancies remained. As no consensus was received on this issue after an extensive discussion, the Chair requested the CPCs to submit their comments about this issue for further discussion by the end of the following week.

Caging operations / natural mortalities: The USA noted that the observer may need some additional documentation or supporting data, during the period of time when they are not present, in order to correctly carry out their duties. In this way their observation and analysis would be more precise and reliable. Currently there is no obligation to make the eBCDs available to ROP observers, but CPCs should provide such data if needed for the observer to fulfill their responsibilities. The Chair suggested modifying the suggested responses for these two topics and requested the CPCs to submit their comments about this issue for further discussion.

Two CPCs (the EU and the USA) submitted comments regarding the second issue of this topic, but full agreement could not be reached.

The USA submitted comments regarding the third issue of this topic.

ROP programme: There were no comments on this topic.

Logbook requirements: The EU supported the proposed response written by the Chair although there was a slightly different point of view on the definition of a JFO.

Farm releases: There were no comments on this topic.

Following the review of the revised topics, the Panel did not achieve an agreement about the comments received on each topic from the different CPCs. The Chair suggested to postpone any decision on this issue and define a final response by correspondence. The EU, the USA and Algeria supported this procedure.

The Chair asked the CPCs to send their comments and suggestions about the three pending topics to the Secretariat by 12 of March 2021. The Chair would see if he could produce consensus responses to the ROP consortium based on those comments and if not possible, they would be forwarded to the ROP consortium so they can evaluate the most accurate responses to their necessities.

The consortium appreciated the interest of the Panel in finalizing the pending clarifications as these topics could bring some issues within the upcoming bluefin tuna campaign.

The Chair confirmed that the rest of topics discussed were closed and their suggested responses to the consortium approved excepting if some CPC would be willing to send any further comment.

7. Matters related to the SCRS

7.1 *Growth rates for farmed bluefin tuna*

In accordance with the procedures which had been agreed by the Commission, the Chair of Panel 2 had circulated a document for comment prior to the meeting attached in **Appendix 8**. No objections were raised to the responses suggested therein.

A Summary of SCRS work in relation to updating the growth table for the fattening period was presented by the Coordinator of the GBYP. The work consisted of three complementary approaches: determining the growth of individual fish using tagging, monitoring of selected cages, and comparing estimated weights at caging to weights at harvesting using electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents (eBCD). The GBYP Coordinator showed some of the preliminary results of these studies. In addition, the GBYP Coordinator highlighted some potential future research steps including the use of acoustic tags and hydrophones placed in cages for determining individual growth trajectories of any tagged fish. Finally, the GBYP Coordinator provided a more global overview of the program's plans to develop a database system for integrating stereoscopic camera, harvesting, eBCD, ROP and VMS data that would allow for a more integrated analysis of this information.

The Panel discussed the presentation. The EU expressed thanks to the GBYP Coordinator and to the CPCs involved in this study. They noted the importance of having confidence in the analysis. One aspect that was of concern to them was that there is the potential for bias to be included in the study aiming to quantify growth by taking into account the difference between the weight at caging, derived from the length at first

measurement given by stereoscopic cameras, and the weight at harvest time. The EU recalled the background to the request to update the growth rates and the fact that some unusually high growth rates could not be explained, and that this led to suspicions by both importing and farming CPCs that illegal activities took place between caging and harvesting. Looking at the difference in weight between caging and harvesting would therefore likely result in including any bias potentially related to such activities and would not provide an accurate representation of what should be the maximum growth rates. The EU added that it is therefore important that the SCRS takes this into account before using this study to produce the updated maximum growth rates. Tunisia inquired how the stress could limit growth and affect natural mortality and how these effects would be accounted for in any analysis. In response, the GBYP Coordinator noted that in all these studies environmental parameters including food supply (and other factors) were recorded so that the influence of such parameters was considered in the estimation of growth. With respect to stress-induced mortality, he noted that this was outside the scope of the original focus of this project but that he hoped that the information to answer this question would be available from the growth study. He also noted that a substantial impediment to expanding studies on stress induced mortality was compensation for farmers for lost fish in the event that tagging caused such mortality. The USA inquired that if length at transfer was to be used to measure growth, then how would the existing length-weight relationship, based on wild fish be used? In response, the GBYP Coordinator noted that determining and using a suitable length-weight relationship was a part of the research plan. The USA expressed its view that, for purposes of the request made by Panel 2, the length-weight relationship developed for wild fish was the most appropriate one for use by the SCRS. Morocco noted that the apparent growth rates in Portuguese trap reached 80%; they requested this number be confirmed and requested the sample size used to determine this rate. In response he noted that the 80% growth corresponded to real data for a single fish but that there was considerable variability across the many individuals in cages. The mean growth across all individuals would be different. He further noted that fish caught in Portuguese traps were leaving the Mediterranean; given that their condition was poor at this point, the potential for growth was very high.

Libya inquired about how temperature could affect growth and the maximum and minimum sample size for the growth rate studies. In response the GBYP Coordinator responded that he could not provide details about sample size immediately. He noted that temperatures were recorded at each site and that the sites were chosen to be representative of all farming sites in the Mediterranean. Canada inquired how the growth rates calculated across multiple studies would be integrated. In response the GBYP Coordinator noted the request from the Commission was to explicitly consider the different sites and the subsequent analysis would highlight the differences.

The USA inquired, given the Chair's responses to the SCRS and the stated purpose of the exercise to determine what a feasible range of growth was, if this set of studies was appropriate to answer this question. The EU stated that this study could remain useful and getting realistic growth rate estimates from caging onwards remained the key issue to determine. In response, the Chair noted that the SCRS had already determined that this study should prove useful and that it may be too early to determine otherwise. He further noted that if growth rates would not turn to be a useful tool to estimate catch weights, then the Commission might want to consider other tools such as direct measurement using artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. Canada sought clarification for the Chair's response to the SCRS: the Chair confirmed that weight at capture, which would be estimated based on the length at caging and the length weight relationship for wild fish, was to be used for the growth rate estimation. The EU explained that it is rarely possible to use the stereoscopic cameras at the time of the first transfer, just after the catch, because the oceanographic conditions are not stable enough to do this. This is why the only possible figures to be used are those established at the time of caging.

The Japanese company NEC provided a short presentation on the use of AI to estimate fish size. Their technology would, once the data are transmitted to the cloud, automatically determine fish size and estimate weight using video. This would eliminate errors injected by human-made measurement. The technology is in active use on tuna farms and other aquaculture facilities in Japan. Moreover, the company was developing fish counting technology. They noted their desire to understand how this technology might be used for ICCAT operations. They presented the value of the approach in its ability to reduce human-induced measurement and fish selection (preferential selection of large fish) errors as well as an example of the underwater stereoscopic camera that could be used for this purpose.

A second presentation by the Japanese company Yanmar was provided to the group on new technology for automatic fish counting and fish measurement using AM-100, which was similar to the previous one. He provided an overview and video presentation and stressed that the technology had the capacity to work in natural conditions and errors can be corrected later and more importantly it would not require any transmission of data for analysis.

There was no time for questions about the presentations. The Panel was encouraged to contact the companies with their specific questions.

7.2 Draft protocol for Northern Albacore Exceptional Circumstances

In accordance with the procedures which had been agreed by the Commission, the Chair of Panel 2 had circulated a document regarding the list of indicators for comment prior to the meeting.

Canada, Morocco and the USA had provided comments, but some of these required further clarification from the SCRS. The Chair had sent the draft to the SCRS for comment and clarification, and the responses are contained in **Appendix 9**.

Haritz Arrizabalaga (the EU), Rapporteur for the SCRS Albacore Species Group, presented a Brief Update on North Atlantic Albacore Exceptional Circumstances. The summary document is attached as **Appendix 10**. He provided an overview of what exceptional circumstances were, and under what circumstances they could be considered triggered. To determine if such exceptional circumstances exist, additional data (catch, CPUE, etc.) would be needed. Different indicators could be used for different circumstances – depending on if there is a new benchmark assessment, application of the harvest control rule, etc.

Taking into account the Panel 2 discussions and input provided by CPCs to the March 2020 Panel 2 meeting, the SCRS updated the list of indicators to detect such Exceptional Circumstances. He referred to 2020 examples demonstrating how modelling output was examined to check if exceptional circumstances had occurred.

The Chair reminded that **Appendix 9** was the key document for revision by the Panel. Based on the comments received by CPCs, he identified several points in need of discussion and went through the document page by page to ensure that the edits he had made would be acceptable.

The Panel discussed the draft in some detail. In summary, they agreed to the following:

- On the first page, the two footnotes concerning B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} under the principle “Stock Dynamics” would be combined to streamline the text. Similarly, the footnotes for B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} under the principle “Application of the MP” would be streamlined.
- On the second page, the referenced document in the footnote would be specified with the ICCAT document number (SCRS/2020/153).
- On the third page, point 4 (management objectives) would be deleted.

The Chair noted the need to discuss the process, i.e., the next step on the understanding that the list of indicators had been finalized with those changes. The SCRS responded that they would provide additional or alternative text on the definition of the “full range of values”, and how this set of indicators would be evaluated and reported. The SCRS would also further consider how to reflect the concepts associated with the “Catch” criteria, which were currently reflected in the table under two different principles and evaluated on different timelines. They would reflect the results of these discussions in their responses to the Commission in the September SCRS report.

The Chair noted that his question was broader than just the SCRS’ work, but rather, that it was about what the next steps for SCRS and Panel 2 would be with the objective of adopting a management procedure (MP) in 2021. The Panel agreed that the so-called metarule reflected in the Chair’s 2020 proposal for a northern albacore exceptional circumstances protocol, as reflected in and commented on before, during, and after the 2020 Panel 2 intersessional meeting, should form a good basis for further work. The USA requested the Chair explain the next steps and timing necessary to finalize a protocol at the November 2021 Commission meeting. In response, the Chair’s proposal was as follows:

- Panel 2 should send material to the Albacore Species Group in June for their review. To this end, the Chair would revise, based on input received to-date, the draft exceptional circumstances protocol included in Appendix 8 of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in 2020. The draft protocol includes the list of indicators for determining exceptional circumstances and metarules, such as a decision tree to guide Commission action in the event exceptional circumstances are triggered.
- The Chair will provide a timeline for revising this document and circulating it to Panel 2 members for review before sending it to the SCRS Albacore Species Group in June.

The SCRS representative stressed that once that indicators are agreed, the SCRS would have to examine in much greater detail what can or should transpire in the event that exceptional circumstances are triggered. This would require a great deal of coordination between the SCRS and Panel 2. The Panel agreed that this should occur.

In a related matter, the USA noted that exceptional circumstances need not be finalized and incorporated into an MP before it could be adopted by the Commission by November. They noted that in the event it was not possible to complete the protocol for the exceptional circumstances, it was their view that the MP could be adopted in any case if that was the decision of Panel 2 and the Commission. The Chair noted that, given his experience with southern bluefin tuna, it would be prudent to try to agree to the exceptional circumstance protocol when the MP is adopted but it was not required. The EU added that they thought it should be possible to have adopted an exceptional circumstances protocol in time for the Commission but did not rule out adopting an MP without this protocol having been agreed. The Chair concluded that tangible progress on these issues would need to be evaluated once the various tasks of the groups are complete before making any decision on a way forward, but that if the protocol is not ready for adoption in November, this would not necessarily preclude action to adopt an MP.

7.3 Brief overview of BFT MSE work

Dr John Walters, SCRS Rapporteur for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna presented a Brief Update of Bluefin MSE process, attached as **Appendix 11**. He outlined sets of key milestones for future MSE work in 2021 and 2022 as follows:

2021 Key Milestones:

- To adopt a reference grid of operating models;
- To implement a plausibility weighting scheme for the grid;
- Initiate an independent peer review of the MSE code;
- To refine a set of index and model-based candidate management procedures (CMP) under development from six individual developer teams;
- The operating models will also be 'reconditioned' - a process which will bring them up to a terminal year of 2018 and will incorporate the most recent index improvements which will occur as part of the bluefin tuna workplan;
- Choice of a limited number CMPs to be approved by the SCRS and presented to the Commission (Panel 2);
- Dialogue Meeting with Panel 2 in the 2021 Commission meeting. The primary purpose of these initial CMPs will be to illustrate the process, elucidate the inherent management trade-offs, gauge the acceptability of CMPs and be provided with recommendations for their further refinement.

2022 Key Milestones:

- During 2022, further dialogue with Panel 2 will be critical to refining these initial CMPs to best achieve acceptability across the various trade-offs;

- Develop guidance on developing exceptional circumstances provisions (to be finalized by the end of 2023) and associated management responses (assuming that the CMP could be adopted without the exceptional circumstances having been agree-to);
- SCRS continues to refine (improve) CMPs;
- Presentation of CMPs (no more than 3) to Commission at the 2022 Annual meeting for potential adoption of one of these for 2023 TAC advice.

The Panel discussed the presentation. The Chair commented that there were differences in the steps applied for MSE in bluefin tuna vs. albacore. The EU noted a few general points. In particular, they noted that there was an urgent need for an updated dialogue to clarify the adequacy of candidate MP as well as the adequacy of the existing management objectives. The principal concern they wished to get some answers about was why the existing CMPs did not consider the status quo procedure (or some approximation of it). Secondly, they inquired about how the “adequacy” of a given MP would be defined. In response, he concurred that dialogue was essential but that it would be most useful once the Group had made some progress. With respect to the definition of adequacy, this would be determined in terms of a set of performance metrics. He noted that while the status quo MP (i.e. single stock, single area models) would not be evaluated, management advice would be provided for the eastern and western stock individually.

The EU did not necessarily agree that the dialogue should occur only after good progress on BFT MSE was made. Managers needed to be consulted on the suitability of MPs in case there were problems with the proposed CMPS that could compel the SCRS to substantially revise their work. The SCRS was open to that dialogue but inquired how such a dialogue could be fit into the tight calendar between now and the Commission. The hope was that there would be a chance to discuss the BFT MSE at the dialogue before the Commission. The Chair noted that the SCRS would need to provide several CMPs in order to allow managers to choose an MP. Norway supported the EU position noting that spatial interactions and differences in the population size would make it particularly challenging and that having a contingency plan to implement the *status quo* management procedure should any CMP fail, or if the process itself fails to generate agreement on OMs or CMPs would be prudent. It was noted that, in fact, regular assessments were planned in 2021 for WBFT and in 2022 for EBFT. Canada concurred that the more interactions between BFT MSE scientists and the Commission managers would be beneficial noting that unlike albacore, bluefin tuna would involve changing the existing paradigm from essentially single stock single-area management practice to a multi-area, mixed stock paradigm. Canada inquired further what the intention of the November BFT MSE Meeting was, noting that all CPCs would be aware that this was their opportunity to provide feedback to the SCRS about the BFT MSE.

The EU requested that the SCRS provide CMPs that are independent for each stock, i.e., separate management areas. The SCRS responded that indeed management advice would be provided in CMPs for each separate area but that the stocks would be linked biologically in the operating models. The SCRS also further noted that there would be the opportunity to have further dialogue in 2022 and explore improvements to existing CMPs.

The USA echoed Canada’s request for clarity on the November 2021 BFT MSE meeting. Specifically, it should be clear in the Panel 2 intersessional report and on the ICCAT website if the meeting is of Panel 2 or of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) so that all CPCs would be able to plan their attendance accordingly. The U.S. understanding was that the 12 November 2021 meeting was of Panel 2. Canada agreed. The Chair clarified that the meeting would be held as a Panel 2 meeting focusing on BFT MSE.

8. Introduction of draft Recommendations on E-BFT

On the basis of the Conclusions of the Working Group on Bluefin tuna Control and Traceability Measures presented to and revised by Panel 2 at its 2020 meeting, it was agreed that various provisions of Rec. 19-04 and other relevant ICCAT measures including Recs. 06-07, 18-12, and 18-13 could potentially benefit from being clarified, combined, streamlined, or otherwise improved and reinforced. The Chair of that Working Group, therefore, developed a “Draft recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”, attached in **Appendix 12**.

The Chair of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures presented the aforementioned document which considered amendments to Rec. 19-04 for the sake of clarifying and seeking a common interpretation of the recommendation for all the CPCs and to improve and reinforce some key control activities, with the view to having a harmonised and solid legal basis for effective implementation and enforcement. These changes included provisions which were previously scattered among other Recommendations such as Rec. 06-07 and Rec. 18-13. All these changes were marked with explanatory notes at the beginning of each modified provision, indicating the origin and justification of the proposed change for revising this draft in preparation for adoption by the Commission at its 2021 Annual Meeting.

Japan asked the EU or any other CPC involved in the farming of live BFT for guidance and supporting material such as a flow chart of the activities and measures involved to make these changes more understandable due to their complexity and technical nature. The USA supported this request. The Working Group Chair noted that it would be no problem to provide a flow chart, and that the EU is available to clarify or explain the reasons for the changes introduced in the text in informal meetings as needed.

With respect to the intersessional process, the USA noted that making decisions by correspondence would be time-consuming and difficult - particularly if there was any controversy. Holding one or more informal online meetings could ease the process.

In response, the Panel 2 Chair suggested a tentative schedule for the whole process:

- Comments on this paper should be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of April;
- A revised version would be circulated mid-June;
- Comments on the revised version should be submitted to the Secretariat by mid-July;
- The Panel 2 Chair would assess the resulting draft and schedule a virtual meeting for discussing it if required.

Morocco stated the importance of these amendments and the need to prioritise them. Morocco has also requested that priority be given to the points concerning Recs. 18-12 and 18-13 endorsed by Panel 2 during last year's meeting.

Tunisia suggested that some amendments outside the scope of control and traceability measures could be made to Rec. 19-04, taking advantage of the current process. The USA noted that there could be merit in clarifying other aspects of 19-04 during the intersessional period, where needed, to ease discussions in November.

The EU raised their concerns about opening the entire text for amendment as it would delay the completion of the main objective: clarifying control and traceability measures. This view was supported by Morocco by reiterating the need to prioritise these control and traceability measures.

The Panel could not agree to focus only on the control measures discussed at the working group and Panel 2 levels last year. Accordingly, the Chair suggested changing the schedule slightly, that is: (i) an intersessional virtual meeting will be held in fall, likely from September 13-15, 2021; (ii) input on the proposal until the time of the fall intersessional meeting will focus on amendments related only to monitoring and control measures of Rec. 19-04; and (iii) input during the fall intersessional meeting can include not only amendments related to monitoring and control measures but also any other issues related to Rec. 19-04. This approach was agreed by the Panel.

It was confirmed by the Secretariat that, in order to facilitate the Panel members work, interpretation could be provided for the fall intersessional meeting and a Microsoft Word version of the document would be circulated for the purpose of making revisions to the draft recommendation.

The EU also briefly introduced a paper on the use of Remote Electronic Technology (Rem) on board bluefin tuna processing vessels. The EU explained that in its opinion the available control tools are not sufficient for effective control of processing vessels and that the project offers the opportunity to use control resources more efficiently. The EU also stated that the pilot project is just a testing phase and the information collected will not be used for control or enforcement purposes, and that for the objectives of the pilot it would be sufficient to equip 2 or 3 processing vessels.

Japan stated that it was not convinced of the need to place remote cameras on board processing vessels as regional observers were required to monitor all harvesting operations. The Chair suggested continuation of informal discussion between the EU and Japan towards the 15th Meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group in June to which this paper would be submitted for further consideration.

9. Adoption of report and adjournment

The Chair thanked all participants for their work and adjourned the meeting. The meeting report was adopted by correspondence.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for 2021 presented by CPCs
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans under item 4
6. Clarification requested by the ROP Consortium regarding Rec. 19-04
7. Matters related to the SCRS
 - (a) Growth rates for farmed bluefin tuna
 - (b) Draft protocol for Northern Albacore Exceptional Circumstances
 - (c) Brief overview of BFT MSE work
8. Introduction of draft recommendations on E-BFT
9. Adoption of report and adjournment

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Questions and comments on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plans

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
General Comments	Panel 2 Chair	<p>Recommendation (s) you should refer to: Several CPCs refer to Rec. 18-02, which has been already replaced by Rec. 19-04. Reference to Rec. 18-02 should be changed Rec. 19-04 unless it is necessary to do so. There is also a question on whether the plan should refer to Rec. 19-04 or Rec. 20-07 which has been adopted by the Commission but not yet entered into force. Legally speaking, Rec. 20-07 has not entered into force and therefore cannot be a legal basis. However, several provision such as the allocations for 2021 (para 5) and the carry-over provision (para 10) were extended by Rec. 20-07. In the past, some CPCs referred to only the effective Recommendations while others referred to both the effective ones as well as a new Recommendation which had not yet become effective. I suggest following the past practice, i.e., it is up to each CPC to decide on which Recommendations should be referred to in their plan. This means that you can write either "Rec. 19-04" or "Recs. 19-04/20-07."</p>	
General Comments	Panel 2 Chair	<p>Carry-over: Para 7 of Rec. 19-04 is optional, and it is up to each CPC to decide whether a request for carry-over is included in the plan. If you forgot to include the request, please include it in the next version. Please note that you must clearly specify your request in the plan if you want to use the carry-over provision.</p>	
General Comments	EU	<p>In several cases, there are outdated references to ICCAT Rec. 18-02, which need to be updated to Rec. 19-04 or even Rec. 20-07, when relevant.</p>	
General Comments	EU	<p>In most of the cases, it is not clear if the catching vessels are using electronic logbooks or bound logbooks as required by paragraph 63 of Rec. 19-04.</p>	
General Comments	EU	<p>In our view and for future plans, the current calculations of the capacity are based on the current catch rates from 2009, and do not constitute any kind of historical rights and/or ceiling. Once the SCRS defines the new catch rates, the new capacity should be calculated based on these new catch rates.</p>	

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
ALL CPCS (General Comment)	Norway	When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15. January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.	
General Comments	USA	It was not always clear which version of the 2020 fishery plans were used by CPCs as the basis for producing the 2021 plans. In some plans, we found the same errors that had been corrected in the final endorsed plans from 2020 (such as Japan's). On a related matter, while the files comparing the 2020 plans to the 2021 plans were very helpful to our review, in a few cases, there seemed to be differences in the 2020 plans used to do the comparison with what was attached to the 2020 Panel 2 intersessional meeting report. For instance, we found text that appeared to us to be new but was not tracked with underlining in one plan (EU). We also found the compliance table attached to one plan was different in the compare documents version than in the PDF version in one case (Iceland). Given this, we have wondered if there may be version control issues in some instances. In any event, in the future it would be helpful if: (1) CPCs based their revisions on the final endorsed plans from the previous year so the same edits and comments don't have to be made over again the next year, and (2) the version of the previous year's plan that is being used for comparison is clearly identified, such as by including the final document number from the previous year.	

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General Comments	USA	Some CPCs do not appear to have used the most recent version of the capacity table and/or to have followed the guidance that: (1) bycatch reserves and other adjustments to the base quota should be entered into the appropriate row of the table and appropriately footnoted, and (2) undercapacity should be shown using negative numbers. We have tried to point out specific cases where we found them, but we suggest a general reminder be issued and a request made that, before the Panel 2 meeting, CPCs double-check their tables and if they are not using the most current version and/or they have not completed it fully and correctly (particularly relative to the adjusted quota and the under/overcapacity rows), revisions be submitted for the next round of consideration.	
General Comments	USA	Some of the paragraph numbers changed between Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04. The template for the fishery plans should be revised accordingly for the sake of accuracy. Korea caught this issue and has already made adjustments to its plan. Few if any others did so.	
General Comments	USA	Paragraph 20 or Rec. 19-04 states: <i>The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.</i> In 2020, Panel 2 discussed the difficulty in assessing compliance with this requirement and the derogations provided in paragraph 22 as CPCs did not provide specific information on their implementation, including calculations, in their plans. We request that all plans include an explanation of the implementation of the requirements in these paragraphs.	
Albania	EU	In the implementation of paragraph 30 of Rec.19-04, in the second paragraph, there is an outdated reference to Rec. 18-02.	All the outdated references to ICCAT Rec. 18-02 are updated to Rec. 19-04.
Albania	EU	Regarding implementation of paragraph 38 of Rec. 19-04 catching of BFT as bycatch is not permitted and Albania allocates 1 t as bycatch quota. It is not clear how Albania is going to count all bycatches (retained or not) against the quota and if those catches, if landed, are going to be confiscated.	Albania allocates 1 t as bycatch quota, considering that its purse seiner fleet of small pelagic exercise activity in the Adriatic Sea. Based on national legislation and ICCAT Rec in the case there are bycatches, all the amount

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			<p>of bycatch is count against Albanian quota and it is subject of confiscation and the appropriate follow up action.</p> <p>Albania notified ICCAT Secretariat on January 8, 2020 (para 57, Rec 19-04) regarding the 252 kg of BFT caught in September 2019, out of the authorization period by one of purse seiner vessel and deducted this amount from the Albanian quota in Fishing Plan 2020.</p>
Albania	EU	To have an electronic logbook is optional under paragraph 63 of 19-04. However, for several consecutive years, Albania has declared that the implementation of the electronic logbook is under development. Could you please clarify exactly when this option was or will be implemented?	<p>Albania have updated and upgraded the national VMS with CLS company and the new MTUs has incorporated the ERS module. We will try to implement ERS in all Albanian fishing fleet, (bottom and pelagic trawlers, purse seiners etc.) starting by 2022, as respective GFCM Rec asked for the small pelagic and demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>Until the system is implemented, the masters of the authorized BFT catching vessels will continue with bound fishing logbook.</p>
Albania	Japan	While it says “Catching of bluefin tuna as bycatch is not permitted”, retention of dead BFT seems to be possible as far as the specific quota for bycatch is available. Is selling of those bycaught BFT permitted? [pp. 3-4]	No, the selling of the bycatch it is not permitted. In this case the fish is subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow up action, based on national legislation and ICCAT Rec. All the amount of the bycatch is count against the Albanian quota during fishing season or from a future quota if the season is closed.
Albania	Norway	See General Comments above.	Albania allocates 1 t as bycatch quota, considering that its purse seiner fleet of small pelagic exercise activity in the Adriatic Sea. Based on national legislation and the ICCAT Rec. in the case there are bycatches, all the amount of bycatch is counted against the Albanian quota and it is

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			subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow up action. Albania notified the ICCAT Secretariat on January 8, 2020 (para 57, Rec. 19-04) regarding the 252 kg of BFT caught in September 2019, out of the authorization period by one of purse seiner vessel and deducted this amount from the Albanian quota in Fishing Plan 2020. Instead of 170000 kg, in the Fishing Plan 2020 Albania had a reduced quota 169748 kg, due to 252 kg caught as bycatch out of the authorization period. During the year 2020 there were no bycatches of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet. Albania will include this confirmation in the ALB Fishing Plan 2021, doc PA2_02_ENG_ALB.
Algeria	EU	Algeria significantly increased (by 50%) the number of purse-seiners from 2018 to 2021. Notwithstanding the same quota level, Algeria again indicates its intension to increase the number of purse-seiners from 2020 to 2021. We would like to receive clarifications on this progressive increase and a demonstration as required by paragraph 22 of Rec. 19-04 that Algeria needs to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use its quota. Furthermore, we would like to understand how Algeria intends to reinforce the control on those vessels.	See revised plan PA2-03A.
Algeria	EU	Are Algerian vessels using electronic logbooks or are they using bound logbooks? It is not clear in the plans.	See revised plan PA2-03A.
Algeria	EU	Under paragraph 38, CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. Algeria allocates only 3 t for bycatch. That should be reflected not only in the capacity plans but also in the fishing plan. Could Algeria please provide the bycatches and discards figures communicated last year?	See revised plan PA2-03A.
Algeria	EU	How will Algeria ensure compliance with the provision in paragraph 111 of Rec. 19-04? With the permanent increase of the number of vessels, Algeria would have double (30) the number of vessels required	See revised plan PA2-03A.

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		for activating the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. While paragraph 111 seems to allow cooperating with other CPCs in order to share an inspection vessel, it is not clear what was done last year and what the possible arrangements are for 2021 to allow Algeria to meet its obligations under paragraph 111. The risk assessment made by Algeria, seems to indicate that inspections at sea are not necessary and we would like to understand the basis for this surprising conclusion.	
Algeria	Japan	Please provide supplemental explanation on the new reglementary mechanism that strengthens monitoring and control methods. [para 3, Section 1, p.1]	See revised plan PA2-03A.
Algeria	USA	In previous plans, Algeria has included information on the percent coverage of its purse seine fleet by its fishery inspectors as part of the implementation of its national observer program, but this detail has been left out of their 2021 plan. Could Algeria please clarify the level of coverage it intends to achieve this year?	See revised plan PA2-03A.
Algeria	USA	We have reviewed Algeria's revised plan (PA2-03A) and found information on the implementation of the EBFT ROP but cannot find information concerning the level of deployment of national fisheries inspectors for 2021. In the 2020 plan, this information was in Section 4(b). In the 2021 plan, the penultimate paragraph of this section indicates that fishing administration inspectors onboard tuna vessels monitor and submit reports on the fishing campaign and carry out cross-checks in the case of potential non-compliance with national and ICCAT rules but no percentage coverage of the fleet is provided. We kindly ask again if Algeria could provide the target level of coverage level (by percentage) by Algerian fishery administration inspectors on the purse seine fleet for the coming fishing EBFT campaign. Will it be 100% again in 2021 or something less? If less, what is the reason for the change?	
Algeria	USA	The plan indicates in item 4 of the table (Bycatch) that Algeria has established a 5 t bycatch quota, which is consistent with the level set in 2020. The capacity table, however, includes a footnote that Algeria's bycatch quota is 3 t. We would be grateful if Algeria could clarify which level is correct and revise its plan so it is consistent	See revised plan PA2-03A.

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
		throughout, including the adjusted quota figure (1652 t or 1650 t), the figure in the footnote (3 t or 5 t) and the figure in the under-capacity row (-172.7 t or -174.7 t) as well as the text in item 4 of the plan.	
Algeria	USA	If Algeria confirms that it has reduced its bycatch quota to 3 t for 2021, we would appreciate an explanation of this reduction given that Algeria has increased its purse seine fleet by 4 vessels (from 26 vessels to 30). Wouldn't more bycatch quota be needed in the case of an expanding fleet?	See revised plan PA2-03A.
China	EU	It is not clear if catching vessels are keeping an electronic logbook (see para 63 of 19-04).	See revised plan PA2-04A (both electronic and paper).
China	EU	It is not clear how the quota consumption is monitored. In general, sufficient details are missing regarding monitoring, control and inspection plan.	
China	EU	Is not clear in which designated ports Chinese vessels are going to land their catches. There is a reference to 'ports designated by ICCAT', and we would ask China to clarify whether we shall understand that to refer to ports designated by other CPCs? Please confirm which ports Chinese vessels are intending to use.	See revised plan PA2-04A - Port of Dakar.
China	EU	There are some outdated references to Rec. 18-02 in the table of pages 2-4.	See revised plan PA2-04A - have been updated.
China	Japan	Please write the regulation rather than the practice in 2nd column of "Fisheries openings." Rec. 19-04 prohibits not only high-seas transshipment but also those in EEZs. Only in-port transshipment is allowed at designated ports. It is unclear why the explanation on transshipment/landing monitoring and control measures are deleted. Will the same measures as previous years be implemented in 2021? [Section 4 a, p.5]	See revised plan PA2-04A.
China	USA	We note that in the table in China's plan, all of the examples of actions taken to implement ICCAT's requirements for EBFT have been removed. We found this helpful in understanding the steps taken by China to implement ICCAT EBFT requirements and wonder why they were taken out. Are they no longer relevant? If they are still relevant, we ask that China consider reinstating them.	See revised plan PA2-04A, (examples have been restored).

To CPC	From	Question/Comment	Response / Note
China	USA	In section 2 of the table, China has removed the fishing area information that was specifically added to the table in 2020 based on comments that the plan should reflect the ICCAT requirement more fully. We ask that this geographic reference be reinstated in the plan. The text in question is: <i>in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.</i>	See revised plan PA2-04A.
China	USA	In section 4 of the table, the concept of reporting to ICCAT is missing, and there are some grammatical issues. We suggest the following friendly edits to the last sentence of the cell: “All the bycatch must be <u>discarded</u> . These discarded BFT will be counted against China’s BFT quota, <u>and these data will be reported to ICCAT</u> . We allocate 1 t for such kind of discard bycatch.”	See revised plan PA2-04A.
China	USA	<p>The text of Row 6 of the table on transshipment needs to be revised. Specifically,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The reference to “high seas transshipment” is incorrect; it is too narrow since ICCAT prohibits transshipment from more than just the high seas. This was discussed in 2020 and China revised the text to say “transshipment at sea.” This language should be reinstated. - The designated ports requirement (paragraph 69 of Rec 19-04) says: <i>Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorised and communicate a list of these ports to the Secretariat.</i> <p>We ask that China clarify the language on designated ports in row 6. In that regard, the phrasing in row 6 of Japan’s fishery plan is a good example: <i>The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.</i></p>	See revised plan PA2-04A.

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China	USA	<p>Regarding section 4 of China's 2021 draft plan, we don't understand the changes that have been made from what was in China's 2020 plan. The 2021 plan says that paragraph 73 of Rec. 19-04 (prior notification of landings) is not applicable to China "as it has no port for BFT fishing vessels to conduct landing and/or transshipment." As Panel 2 has discussed previously, this requirement is applicable to China. Bluefin tuna harvested by Chinese vessels must be either transshipped in port or landed somewhere. And transshipped bluefin tuna must still eventually be landed in a port. Any landings are to take place in a designated port and prior notification of landing is required to be given by the fishing vessel whether or not the landing is taking place in the port of the CPC of the fishing vessel or a foreign port. In either case, China must require its vessels to provide prior notification of landings in line the requirements set out in paragraph 73 of Rec. 19-04 and, if eastern bluefin tuna is transshipped in a designated port to a carrier vessel and subsequently landed in a Chinese port, those ports must be reported to ICCAT as designated ports per paragraph 69 and 70 of Rec 19-04. If such ports are not listed, landing shall be prohibited per paragraph 71. We ask that China clarify its plan with regard to these issues and suggest that Japan's plan (section 4 (a) (iv)) and Korea's plan (section 4 (a) (i)) could be good examples.</p> <p>China indicated that only landings would take place in the port of Dakar. In this case, China's plan should be further revised to clarify in row 6 and section 4(a) that Chinese vessels will only be authorized to land EBFT in Dakar and that transshipments in port (in addition to at sea transshipments), are prohibited.</p>	<p>See revised plan PA2-04A. Chinese vessels only use the port of Dakar to land rather than transship our catch.</p> <p>Chinese vessels will only be authorized to land EBFT in Dakar and transshipments in port (in addition to at sea transshipments), are prohibited.</p>
China	USA	Regarding China's capacity table, it should reflect an adjusted quota (third to last row) of 101 (102 minus the 1 t for bycatch) in keeping with the approach agreed last year.	See revised plan PA2-04A.
Egypt	EU	There are some outdated references to Rec. 18-02.	See revised plan PA2-05A.
Egypt	EU	In the fishing plan, the number of vessels is not mentioned for 2021. However, two purse-seiners are indicated in the capacity plan. Should we understand that the number of vessels is the same on both plans?	See revised plan PA2-05A.

To CPC	From	Question/Comment	Response / Note
Egypt	EU	Could Egypt provide an explanation of how the cross-checks are performed?	See revised plan PA2-05A.
Egypt	Japan	The reasoning why Egypt considered allocation of 1% of TAC as bycatch quota be sufficient should be provided. For example, it would be useful to know the reported amount of bycatch in 2020. [p.4]	See revised plan PA2-05A.
Egypt	Japan	The line 'Quota' should be the allocated quota by the Recommendation, thus the figure for 2021 should be 330 (not 326.7). Instead, 326.7 should be put in the line 'Adjusted Quota' with a footnote '3.3 ton is set aside for bycatch'. The similar modification would be necessary for previous years.	
EU	Japan	It is not sure why the transposition of the Rec. 19-04 is still in progress. [para 3, Section 1, p.1]	<p><i>The EU as a Contracting Party to ICCAT is under an international obligation to ensure that the provisions of these resolutions are effectively complied with. Pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, this international obligation also lies with Member States. Accordingly, Member States are bound to comply with the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendations and take the necessary measures to this end, pending transposition of the said measures into EU law.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the Commission has prepared and adopted a proposal for transposing the ICCAT Recommendations into EU law and has transmitted the proposal to the co-legislators (European Parliament and Council) for adoption. The co-legislators broadly support the proposal but have a few outstanding issues that are essentially of an internal inter-institutional nature and does not affect the obligations the EU has assumed under the relevant recommendation. The discussions have not been facilitated by the COVID situation and have taken a bit longer than anticipated but it</i></p>

To CPC	From	Question/Comment	Response / Note
			<i>is expected that an agreement will be reached in the next few months.</i>
EU	Korea	It is not clear from the fishing plan what would be the respective minimum observer coverage that the EU intends to achieve for fisheries other than purse seine fishery. Please specify.	See revised plan PA2-06A.
EU	USA	Per section 2, we understand that a sectorial quota has been established for small-scale vessels (see table and footnote 3). Paragraph 19 (a) and (b) requires: <i>If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment. b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan...</i> It is not clear in the fishing plan which fleets and gear types are subject to the sectorial quota and what additional measures/conditions have been put in place to closely monitor this fleet segment, including its quota consumption. Paragraph 19 of the matrix only speaks generally to special fishing authorizations, defined seasons, and quota monitoring in line with national legislation. We would appreciate more details in the relevant sections of the plans on these points.	See revised plan PA2-06A.
EU	USA	Regarding capacity, the table in Section 2 on fleet allocations clearly describes how the EU arrived at its adjusted quota of 18,651.25 t. This math should also be reflected in the EU capacity table, i.e., 19,460 t minus the quota for sport and recreational (136.06 t) minus the bycatch reserve (672.69 t) equals 18,651.25 t. The EU's total under-capacity should be calculated against this adjusted quota, consistent with the approach agreed by Panel 2 last year. In addition, the capacity table template used by the EU does not appear to be the most current. It would be helpful for EU to complete the most current version of the capacity table when it revises its plan to facilitate review this year and into the future.	See revised plan PA2-06A.

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
		In our initial comments, we asked EU to provide, per paragraphs 19(a) and (b), additional details in its plan on sectorial quota allocations - in particular, which fleets and gear types are subject to the quota and what additional measures/conditions have been put in place to closely monitor this fleet segment, including its quota consumption. While some additional information was provided in PA2_06A, it did not offer substantially more details to determine how well these provisions are being implemented. We recognize, however, that this appears to be a complicated matter within the EU. If it is not possible to provide a more complete picture of the situation this year, we would note for the record that more specific information by fleet segment and Member State should be provided in time for review of the 2022 fishery plans, including in section 5 (monitoring, control, and inspection).	
Iceland	EU	It is true that the Iceland can exceed the quota amount by up to 25% each year, but this is also subject to a limitation (shall not exceed 411 t in 2018, 2019 and 2020). Could Iceland present in their fishing and capacity plan the adjusted quota taking into consideration this limitation?	See revised plan PA2-07A.
Iceland	EU	Please clarify whether undersize discards and bycatches are counted against the quota?	See revised plan PA2-07A.
Iceland	Japan	Joint Scheme of International Inspection applies to not only PS but also LL if the total number of vessels is more than 15. The reason why this is not applicable to Iceland is that Iceland has only two LLs.	See revised plan PA2-07A.
Iceland	USA	Iceland's capacity table should reflect an adjusted quota of 170 t to account for the 10 t bycatch reserve quota and the under-capacity calculation should be adjusted accordingly (- 120 t). Note that the table in the compare docs version seemed to be correct but the pdf version of Iceland's plan (PA2-08) was not.	See revised plan PA2-07A.
Japan	EU	It is not clear whether catching vessels are keeping an electronic logbook (see para 63 of 19-04).	Some fishing vessels still use bound logbooks while some use electronic logbooks.
Japan	EU	We understand the constraints regarding CPCs observer coverage depending on the evolution of the pandemic. Could Japan confirm that it has a contingency plan and if so what it is to ensure best possible observer's coverage?	Since Japan's fishing season starts on 1 August, it is hoped the pandemic situation would calm down by then and observers can be dispatched as normal. In case that the

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			pandemic continues to prevent observer embarkation until the start of the 2021 fishing season, Japan will prepare a contingency plan before the start of the fishing season.
Japan	Norway	When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15 January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.	The amount of bycatch in 2020 is described as below (Section 1, para 4). <i>Regarding bycatch, all Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the equator or further south: the possibility of bycatch of BFT is negligible. In fact, there was no bycatch reported in 2020. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t for bycatch for other fisheries for 2021 as a minimum figure.</i>
Japan	USA	In section 4(a), the correction made last year to reference Iceland needs to be made again this year	See revised fishing plan PA2-08A.
Japan	USA	In Section 4(a)(iii), we believe the end of sentence should read 114.47 t (vs 114.47 vessels).	114.47 vessels' is correct. 114.47 is the maximum number of catching vessels which Japan's quota can satisfy based on the catch rate for LSTLV over 40 m. The actual number of BFT-catching vessels will be 40, thus indicating Japan's capacity being very low.
Korea	EU	In the fishing capacity table, the final figures should be negative (under capacity) following the methodology agreed in Panel 2 since last year).	See revised fishing plan PA2-09A (revisions to capacity table).
Korea	EU	Has Korea other catching vessels fishing in the ICCAT temperate zones? If so, is a 0.5 t bycatch quota enough?	See revised fishing plan PA2-09A.
Korea	EU	Which ports have been designated by Korea to tranship their catches? If Korea refers to ports designated by other CPCs, could you confirm which ports Korean vessels are intending to use.	See revised fishing plan PA2-09A (Cape Town, Dakar or Cabo Verde).

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
Korea	USA	For transparency, Korea's capacity table should have an indication that its 0.5 t bycatch reserve has been taken into account in the adjusted quota, perhaps through inclusion of a footnote.	See revised fishing plan PA2-09A (footnote included).
Libya	EU	Is not clear if PS are keeping an electronic logbook (see paragraph 63 of 19-04).	See revised fishing plan PA2-010A (bound logbook).
Libya	EU	It is not clear if dead fish are going to be counted against the quota.	See revised fishing plan PA2-010A (will be deducted from the quota of Libya when it occurs).
Libya	Japan	When will the current decree (33/2019) be amended? How will the new legal framework introduce more effective enforcement measures? [Section 4.a.2, p. 5]	See revised fishing plan PA2-010A (new references included).
Morocco	EU	It is not clear whether catching vessels are keeping an electronic logbook (see para 63 of 19-04).	The captains of fishing vessels authorised to catch bluefin tuna continue to keep a bound logbook.
Morocco	EU	We understand that Morocco has a fleet of small-scale vessels targeting bluefin tuna during the fish migration? Will those vessels' catches be counted under a sectorial quota instead a bycatch quota?	The catches of small-scale coastal vessels and artisanal boats that have fishing licenses for bluefin bycatch during migration will be counted under the quota limit assigned to their segment.
Morocco	EU	Regarding purse-seiners fishing seasons; it is not clear in which season and area the Moroccan purse-seiners are going to operate and this should be clarified.	Morocco's four purse-seiners will operate in one of the following options: - East Mediterranean in joint fishing operations from 15 May to 1 July; or - The eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco from 1 May to 15 June.
Morocco	EU	We would like to receive more information about whether Morocco intends to perform random controls in its farms, and if so how	Morocco implements the provisions of para. 103 regarding random controls in fattening farms in accordance with point 5 of paragraph "4 a). Monitoring, control and inspection plan" : <i>Control of live bluefin tuna in a fattening cage by farm in the period from the end of the caging operations to the first caging operation of the following year. This</i>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			<p><i>control also concerns the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm.</i></p> <p>Therefore, the random control in each active fattening farm is performed by the regional control authorities before harvesting operations in two stages:</p> <p>(1) A documentary control: The control agents check the traceability system implemented by the farm, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The keeping of national monitoring records regarding caged bluefin tuna traceability, implemented as per the national bluefin tuna fishing activity control methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caging operation monitoring records • Internal transfer monitoring records • Records to monitor fattening monitoring records • Harvesting operation monitoring records - And a comparison with other traceability documents (paper and electronic). <p>(2) A control of the number of individuals (transfer of bluefin tuna from one fattening cage to another):</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			This transfer operation is monitored by a control camera to check the number of bluefin tuna that have been transferred.
Morocco	Japan	<p>Reference on size sampling at the start of fattening is deleted. Does this mean Morocco will not conduct sampling program at caging in 2021? [Section 5, in p.7]</p> <p>The current text however is not straightforward. If the text would be amended as below for example, it would be clearer. Just a suggestion. "Regarding research and in accordance with paragraph 28 of Recs. 19-04/20-07 as amended and supplemented, the Kingdom of Morocco intends to continue with its study on growth rate of fattened bluefin tuna in 2021, based on measures of stereoscopic cameras and size sampling <u>both at caging and at the end of the fattening season.</u>" In addition, the new sentence below in page 1 is not clear for me. A little bit more elaboration would be helpful. "<u>It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have staggered fishing periods throughout the year.</u>"</p>	<p>As explained in the section regarding research, Morocco will conduct its growth study based on stereoscopic camera measurements, which involves size sampling at least 20% of live caged fish. Therefore, random size sampling at caging is still maintained.</p> <p>See revised fishing plan PA2-011B which takes into account the additional comments from Japan.</p>
Morocco	Norway	<p>When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15 January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.</p>	<p>Morocco has reserved a bycatch quota and has provided detail on 2020 bycatch in its fishing plan (revised version PA2-011A).</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
Morocco	USA	In its capacity table, Morocco has included a 20 t bycatch reserve in the row associated with “other” vessels (i.e., Bycatch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats). The footnote and relevant text of the plan seems to indicate that the 20 t bycatch reserve would apply more broadly to bycatches by other gears (longline and purse seine). Could Morocco clarify which fleets the bycatch reserve applies to and if it is broadly applicable to all Moroccan fleets, we suggest the bycatch reserve be moved out of the “other vessels” row, included in the “adjusted quota” row, and an explanatory footnote be added.	<p>The bycatch reserve is applicable to small-scale coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline (LL and HL)). It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have staggered fishing periods throughout the year.</p> <p>The 20 t reserve is set aside for potential dead bluefin tuna discards. (See also the revised fishing plan PA2-011A).</p>
Norway	EU	Regarding ROP observers (paragraph 84 of 19-04), is Norway prepared to reconsider the prohibition against having ROPs on board purse-seiners due to the COVID-19? Can Norway confirm that they have a contingency plan to reactivate the ROPs?	<p>Norway would like to stress that we did contact the ROP, as usual, in 2020, and booked an observer for each of the purse seine vessels. The master of the vessels, or their representative, signed the MoU and paid for the deployment. In some cases plane tickets for the observer to Norway were bought. The 14 August, we informed the ROP that the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries in Norway had decided that it would not be permitted for Norwegian vessels to have an observer from ICCAT on board the purse seine vessels. This was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, where the situation rapidly got more and more severe. In the period before this decision, Norway had been in close contact with the ROP, in order to make sure that the observers travelling to Norway would actually be allowed to enter. Several of the vessels were planning on starting fishing for bluefin at the end of August/beginning of September, and it was important to us that they would not be conducting this fishery without an observer.</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			<p>When the prohibition was laid down by the Ministry, we immediately contacted the ROP in order to find other measures so that Norway could still be part of the ROP programme in 2020. It is worth noting that the Ministry also prohibited national inspectors from entering the vessels. Representatives from all the vessels, and from the Directorate of Fisheries, met with the ROP through a video meeting, and received training on how to fill out the necessary forms. The representative from the vessel would then represent the ROP, to the extent possible, and make sure the forms were filled out correctly and forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries and the ROP.</p> <p>The reason for explaining the situation in 2020 when answering the question from the EU, is to make clear that it has never been the intention of Norway to fish without observers from the ROP on board the purse seine vessels. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic, and the restrictions set by the Ministry, made it impossible for the observers to enter the vessels.</p> <p>As of today, and the 2021 fishing season, it is our plan to deploy observers for our purse seine fleet in line with the guidelines and requirements for observer coverage. However we have to assess the situation around the pandemic and restrictions continuously.</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
Norway	EU	Norway is not using the same catch rates per fishing gear as other CPCs. They have sent a study of their actual catch rates to Panel 2 and to the SCRS. Is not clear, if the SCRS had validated those catch rates and if they have been endorsed by Panel 2 and we would ask Norway to clarify this.	<p>Norway's paper on catch rates was intended as a contribution to the SCRS' work on capacity benchmarks, recalling that the Panel had asked the SCRS to review the current catch rates in the Commission meeting in 2019. The catch rates in the Norwegian paper have not been validated by the SCRS, nor endorsed by Panel 2.</p> <p>Norway would like to point out that in the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2020, the Panel supported a suggestion by the Chair that CPCs should provide the SCRS for its review the best estimates of their catch rates based on the fishing activity of their fleets in the last five years. In the 2020 advice from the SCRS to the Commission it is stated that the SCRS has only received one document from a CPC (Norway, SCRS/2020/017) providing information on their fleet(s) catch rates. Norway would like to encourage other CPCs to also provide this information to the SCRS.</p> <p>It should be recalled that according to paragraph 23 in Recs. 19-04/20-07 the adjustment of fishing capacity does not apply to Norway.</p> <p>By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2021, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraph 16, a different number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such adjustments shall be made in accordance with the</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Northeast Atlantic in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
Norway	Japan	Appendix 1 is a study on live storage possibility, not best catch rates in the Norwegian waters.	Note, this was due to a misunderstanding and has been resolved. Document SCRS/2020/017 is now attached to the plan.
Syria	EU	If we understand the plan correctly, the PSs would simultaneously have both national observers and ROP observers on-board. Can Syria confirm that this understanding is correct?	We confirm that the PSs would simultaneously have both national observer and ROP observer on board.
Syria	Norway	When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15 January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.	No bycatch recorded in previous year. And no discard of bluefin tuna as domestic legislation requires all dead or dying fish must be landed. Most of the Syrian fleet are considered as small-scale coastal vessels and the possibility of catching bluefin tuna is negligible. Therefore, the bycatch quota is set at 1% only as no bycatch has been recorded previously.
Syria	USA	In Section 4(a) (CPC monitoring, control, and inspection), the last tic, as edited, is an incomplete sentence and needs correction.	In section 4(a) the completed sentence is in case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator. See revised plan PA2-013A.

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
Tunisia	EU	Could Tunisia clarify whether their catching vessels are going to use electronic logbooks (see paragraph 63 of Rec. 19-04).	No, the fishing logbooks used by catching vessels will be in paper format (in accordance with the requirement established in paragraph 63 of Rec. 19-04). Nonetheless, in parallel with this measure, prior transfer notifications and the authorisations granted will be instantaneously guaranteed between vessels and the competent authority via satellite transmission.
Tunisia	Japan	If Tunisia wants to carry over 21.5 tons to the 2021 fishing season, such request must be clearly written in the plan.	See revised plan PA2-014A.
Tunisia	Norway	When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15 January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.	As mentioned in the fishing plan, 26.55 t (or 1%) has been set aside for bycatch. Bycatch was estimated based on bycatch from previous years and increased as a precautionary measure. Dead discards and bycatch of vessels with a specific bluefin tuna fishing permit will be returned to the sea and deducted from the individual quotas of these vessels, and therefore from Tunisia's total quota.
Tunisia	USA	The footnote on the capacity table needs to be revised to reflect the figures for 2021. Currently, the footnote relates to the 2020 figures.	The footnote on the capacity table reflects the adjustment by carry-over of unconsumed catch from the 2020 quota. In accordance with Recommendation 19-04/20-07 para. 7. the carry-over request must be included in the fishing plan for approval (see revised plan 014-A).

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
Tunisia	USA	In our initial comment, we noted that the footnote on the capacity table needed to be revised to reflect the 2021 adjusted quota figure of 2676.55 t rather than the 2020 figure of 2675.4 t. In the revised plan (PA2_14A), Tunisia simply removed the footnote. We believe the footnote is needed to help understand the figures in the table and would ask that it be reinstated but with the correct reference to the 2021 adjusted quota figure.	
Turkey	EU	Could Turkey explain in more detail how they will reinforce control, considering that they not only pass from 22 purse seiners in 2018 to 36 purse seiners in 2021, but also that the duration of the fishing season is increased?	<p>In 2020, Turkey did initially indicate a total of 36 purse seiners that correspond to its national quota (i.e., 2,305 metric tons) as to the SCRS 2009 methodology. Then, as a result of the domestic process for determination of vessels to be authorized, 27 purse seiners have been permitted following some vessel owners / operators waived from the process with ICCAT Regional Observers assigned onboard.</p> <p>The determination of the purse seiners to be authorized for BFT fisheries from the Turkish fleet is processed by application of a domestic criteria by the Ministry. During the said process masters of some of the purse seiners may prefer to conduct other types of fisheries instead of BFT fishery. As the fishing season for other pelagic fisheries starts as of 15 April, some operators may renounce their BFT authorizations.</p> <p>As the level of quota for 2021 remains the same, the same preliminary estimated figure (i.e., 36 purse seiners) given in 2020 that correspond to national quota as to the SCRS 2009 methodology has been kept unchanged in 2021's fishing plan to keep consistency in terms of domestic procedures applied last year. Accordingly, the</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			<p>final number of purse seiners will be defined at a later stage (at latest, 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity) and to be announced through a revised plan, as required.</p> <p>As to the control measures, provisions of Rec. 19-04 will be fully implemented. Turkey does not intend to implement alternative measures to compensate any MCS measures or ICCAT Regional Observers / CPC Observers. In this respect, a higher number of inspection assets and activities, compared to the previous year, are planned to be deployed in the context of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection. Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) operated by the Ministry will be supported by additional staff to further strengthen the monitoring during the whole fishing campaign.</p>
Turkey	EU	Do Turkish vessels have the intention to fish outside the Aegean Sea and Levante? (Paragraph 29 and 60 of 19-04)	<p>Since there are currently no fishing vessels authorized for BFT fishery or no such intentions clarified yet, it is considered that it is early to respond to this question under these circumstances.</p> <p>As there is no legal impediment for authorized BFT fishing vessels to operate in high-seas of the Mediterranean within the framework of the current ICCAT and domestic rules, it is envisaged that some of the fishing vessels to be authorized for BFT fishery may prefer to operate outside the Aegean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean in 2021.</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			In this case, activities of such authorized fishing vessels to be performed in high-seas will be carried out in accordance with the applicable ICCAT rules and recommendations.
Turkey	Japan	More explanation on the difference between “incidental catch” and “bycatch” would be appreciated. [para. 9, Section 1, p.1]	<p>As used in domestic regulations; the term “Bycatch” refers to incidental (accidental) catches of BFT by fishing vessel not targeting or authorized to fish BFT (para 38 of Rec. 19-04). Whereas, the term “incidental catch” refers to BFT catches made by authorized BFT Catching Vessels that may catch no more than 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg (para 37 of Rec.19-04).</p> <p>As for bycatches, Turkey has set aside a specific quota of 5 metric tons in the fishing plan for 2021, considering that the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 has been 4.829 Kgs.</p> <p>The level of bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip. Whether it is retained or not all bycatches shall be deducted from Turkey’s total quota.</p> <p>In order to avoid any confusion on the terms “bycatch” and “incidental catch”, references made to the incidental catches in the fishing capacity management section have been removed in the relevant sections of the Plan.</p>
Turkey	Norway	When revising the quota set aside for bycatch of BFT in the annual fishing plan, it would be of great use to know how much bycatch of BFT the CPC has experienced the previous year. The way the allocation is presented now, in several of the fishing,	Taking into account the historical catches, since bycatch in the previous years was less than 5 t/year, in 2020, the allocated specific quota for bycatch has been

To CPC	From	Question/Comment	Response / Note
		<p>capacity, inspection and farming plans for BFT, it is difficult for other CPCs to review whether the allocation set aside is high enough to cover the potential bycatch or dead discards of BFT for 2021. In accordance with PA2_01_APP_01/i 2021 dated 15 January 2021, Norway would like to request that the fishing, capacity, inspection and farming plans which have not included the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 should do so in an updated version of the document. It is our interpretation of Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 38 that the CPCs must explain the size of the bycatch allocation in the annual fishing plan.</p>	<p>reduced from 50 t to 5 t.</p> <p>In a similar vein, Turkey has set aside a specific quota of 5 metric tons in the fishing plan of 2021, considering that the estimated amount of bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries in 2020 has been 4.829 kg.</p> <p>The level of bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip. Whether it is retained or not, all bycatches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota. In accordance with Paragraph 38 of Rec. 19-04 the size of bycatch allocation has been explained in the fishing plans of 2020 and 2021.</p>
Turkey	USA (general comment)	<p>Paragraph 20 or Rec. 19-04 states: <i>The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.</i> In 2020, Panel 2 discussed the difficulty in assessing compliance with this requirement and the derogations provided in paragraph 22 as CPCs did not provide specific information on their implementation, including calculations, in their plans. We request that all plans include an explanation of the implementation of the requirements in these paragraphs.</p>	<p>In 2020, Turkey did initially indicate a total of 36 purse seiners that correspond to its national quota (i.e., 2,305 metric tons) as to the SCRS 2009 methodology. Then, as a result of the domestic process for determination of vessels to be authorized, 27 purse seiners have been permitted following some vessel owners / operators waived from the process.</p> <p>As the level of quota for 2021 remains the same, the same preliminary estimated figure (i.e., 36 purse seiners) given in 2020 has been kept unchanged in 2021's fishing plan to keep consistency in terms of domestic procedures applied last year. Accordingly, the final number of purse seiners will be defined at a later stage (at latest, 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity) and to be announced through a revised plan, as required.</p>

<i>To CPC</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Question/Comment</i>	<i>Response / Note</i>
			It is also considered that the review and updating of the best catch rates by SCRS (para 18 of Rec. 19-04 / para 4 of Rec. 20-07) should be completed as it is closely linked to the requirement in paragraph 20.
UK	EU	<p>The plan is presented as “provisional” pending “finalisation of the UK’s 2021 EBFT quota”.</p> <p>The UK has no authorized vessels nor does it have a specific allocation agreed to by the ICCAT Commission during the 2020 decision making procedure allowing the targeting of BFT. It has received a transfer from the EU covering bycatch for commercial vessels. It is not clear by reading paragraph 3 of section 1 of the UK plans whether it intends to authorize vessels targeting BFT. If that is the case, the EU would note that in line with the decision of Panel 2 at last year’s intersessional meeting taken in respect of the plans submitted at the time by Russia and Namibia it would neither be required nor would it be appropriate for Panel 2 to endorse the UK plan, since it does not have an endorsed quota allowing it to engage in directed fisheries for bluefin tuna in 2021.</p>	As we have tried to explain in the opening paragraphs of our plan, the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) reached by the UK and the EU agreed a split in the previous EU share of eastern BFT resulting in a small UK share to be transferred from the EU to the UK and communicated to ICCAT. The UK is not aware that the EU has communicated any transfer yet – though we have asked that they do this before the meeting so the situation is clear for all parties. However, there is no basis for the EU to state that the transfer is to cover ‘bycatch for commercial vessels’. See revised plan PA2-17A.
UK	USA	We appreciate the fishery plan submitted by the UK and look forward to receiving more details on the fishery and its management as arrangements with the EU become clearer.	See revised plan PA2-17A.
UK	USA	Row 3 of the table (minimum size) specifies that any bycatch of bluefin tuna below the minimum size that are dead will be counted against the UK quota. As these data should also be reported to ICCAT, we would ask that the UK revise the text to include that aspect.	See revised plan PA2-17A.
UK	USA	The text in Row 3 also implies that the UK will avail itself of the derogation in paragraph 35 of Rec 19-04 to retain incidentally caught bluefin tuna between 8 kg and 30 kg. We would appreciate it if the plan could include details on which of the derogations applies to the UK fleet.	See revised plan PA2-17A.
Chinese Taipei	General Comments		See revised plan PA2-16A.

**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing,
farming, inspection and capacity management plans endorsed by Panel 2**

ALBANIA**Fishing Plan Year: 2021****1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)**

CPC Albania, by the Minister Order No. 334 date 25/08/2020, implemented the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (ICCAT Rec. 19-04). The Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota allocated to Albania for the year 2021 is 170 tons and it is allocated to purse seiner vessels (169 mt) and incidental bycatch (1 mt).

Two purse seiners vessels (41 meters and 28 meters) are authorized to fish the Albanian bluefin tuna quota and these vessels are provided with Bluefin Tuna Fishing Authorization.

Albania adjusts the number of fishing vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated quota, and on the other hand Albania needs to develop its fishing capacity so to fully use its quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS. (para 22, Rec. 19-04).

The method used to allocate and manage the quotas is based on Minister Order No. 334 dated 25/08/2020, implemented the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (ICCAT Rec. 19-04), national legislation as well as in the Albanian fishing fleet register and fleet segments.

Legal basis:

Law No. 64/2012 "On fisheries", amended, article 69, Paragraph 1/point b and c, Paragraph 3 and 5.

In the Albanian fishing fleet register, there are no baitboats, longliners, handliners or traps. The fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners is not developed and no permissions are issued. Albania reports annually the fishing gear groups and fleet segments (DCRF - GFCM and DG MARE).

The permissions issued to small scale vessels clearly indicate the distance from the coast (1 – 2 NM) and fishing gears to be used (gill nets and trammel nets with respective length and mesh size).

During the year 2020 there were no bycatch of BFT caught in other fisheries by the Albanian fishing fleet.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 18-02/19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting Para 63	The Electronic log-book is still under development. During this year, the Masters of authorized vessels are obliged to use a bound fishing logbook for their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04. The Master shall transmit every day to the Albanian authorities,	Annex 4 of DCM Nr. 407 dt. 08/05/2013 "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy", implementation of the EU Regulation 1224/2009 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council	

		the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.	
3	Minimum size Para 34 Para 36	It is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. Albania does not catch bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes (para 35, point c). If any bluefin tuna below the minimum size are caught and retained or discarded dead, they will be confiscated and will be counted against Albania's quota.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019 Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020
4	Bycatch Para 38	Catching of bluefin tuna as bycatch is not permitted and Albania allocate 1 (one) t as a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. If the specific quota for bycatch is exhausted all bycatches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of Albania and reported to ICCAT. All bycatches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea. Albania shall report information on such quantities (landed dead or released live) on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019 Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	No quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries and this fishing activity is not permitted.	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019. Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020
6	Transshipment Para 77	There are four designated ports in Albania (Shengjin, Durrës, Vlorë and Saranda) but the transshipment operations of bluefin tuna shall be allowed	Minister Order Nr. 102 dt. 05/02/2019. Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020

	Para 78	only at the designated port of Shengjin. Prior to entry into Shengjin port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the Albanian authorities at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.		
7	VMS Para 105	VMS implemented; the polling rate is at least once every hour (Rec. 18-10, para 3).	Law Nr. 64/2012, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system 1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.	
8	CPC observers programme Para 83	The bluefin tuna fishing activity with baitboats, longliners, handliners as well as traps or towing vessels is not developed and no permissions are issued. On the other hand, Albania has started implementing the bycatch monitoring program through the observers on board of fishing vessels (bottom & pelagic trawlers, purse seiners and small-scale artisanal fishing) in 4 designated ports to obtain representative data on the discard component of total bycatch, as well as information on the incidental catch of vulnerable species.	LoA between FAO under GCP/RER/010/ITA and MTF/INT/943/MUL – Baby 26 and the Albanian authorities for provision of “Support the fisheries monitoring of Albania”, signed on 29/01/2019.	
9	Regional observers programme Para 84	Albanian purse seiners fishing vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna will be covered 100% from ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.	Ministerial Order No. 102 of 05/02/2019. Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

(Attached)

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

By special order, No. 5, dated 28.01.2019, issued by the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, a Task Force will be installed at the Shengjini fishing Port, during the fishing season, to carry out duties based on ICCAT Recommendation 18-02/19-04, Albanian legislation and Minister Order No. 102, dated 05/02/2019 and Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020.

During this period, in addition to other duties as per articles 67-69, 74-75, 80-83, and 121-124 of the Law 64/2012 "On Fisheries", and the Minister's Order No. 102, dated 05/02/2019 and Minister Order Nr. 334 date 25/08/2020, the Fishery Inspector, based at the fishing port of Shengjini, and the Task Force, should prioritize implementation as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The Master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the estimated time of arrival into the port, estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Fishery Inspectors takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and obtain from the master the landing declaration which reflects the above data already specified (through weighing) and not in a random way.

The Master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The Albanian authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

- The Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by the authorized fishing vessel, the data communicated, the landing declarations in the fishing port, as well as other details that are seen as reasonable. The Fishery Inspector shall communicate these data to the Fishery Directorate within 48 hours of the landing of the fish products by the authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure that the Master of fishing vessel fills correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- Not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The Inspector makes measurements of each tuna caught, just landed and verifies implementation of the foregoing obligation to weigh/minimum size of fish caught.
- Check the functionality of the VMS system of the vessel, with a non-stop signal, which is not interrupted even when in port.
- Send to the Fishery Authorities at the Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.

- Observe, identify and monitor any quantity of bluefin tuna caught by the fishing vessel (outside of authorized fishing season).

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

N/A.

5. Others

N/A.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7												1	1	1												70.7	70.7	70.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78								1	1	1	1		1	1								49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78		49.78	49.78
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																												
Purse seine total fleet									1	1	1	1	1	2	2														
Longliner over 40m	25																												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																												
Longliner less than 24m	5																												
Total longline fleet																													
Baitboat	19.8																												
Handline	5																												
Trawler	10																												
Trap	130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																												
Other (please specify)	5																												
Total fleet/fishing capacity																													
Quota																							39.65	47.40	56.91	100	156	169.748	170
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										155	168.748	169 ¹	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																													
Under/ overcapacity																							10.13	2.38	-7.31	-50.22	-84.3	-48.268	-48.52

1. A 1 t quota is set aside for incidental bycatch.

ALGERIA

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Algeria presents its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan below.

Algeria's 2021 fishing plan is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 19-04 and the national regulation and legislation, including in particular the Law 01-11 regarding fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented by the Executive Decree No. 03-481 establishing the methods and conditions for exercising fishing and the Ministerial Order of 19 April 2010, amended and supplemented, which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for Algerian-flagged vessels and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

On this basis, Algeria has implemented a new regulatory mechanism, which supplements and amends the Decision of 19 April 2010, and establishes bluefin tuna fishing quotas for national-flagged vessels and fixes the methods for their distribution and implementation. It has been approved by the relevant government body (SGG) and is awaiting publication. The new mechanism strengthens monitoring and control methods as well as sanctions for any potential non-compliances observed.

In effect, the regulatory mechanism referred to above strengthens the control and surveillance arrangements of the 2021 bluefin tuna fishing campaign - upstream and downstream - especially through extension of the prerogatives and scope of action of national controllers onboard tuna purse seine vessels as well as on land, in particular:

- carrying out inspection on departure of tuna vessels to verify fishing methods;
- carrying out controls at landing ports as well as controls by the coast guard services;
- controlling the tuna vessels on landing;
- daily control of the logbook;
- controlling operation of the positioning beacon (VMS);
- monitoring bluefin fishing and transfer operations;
- controlling compliance of information recorded in the logbook;
- controlling bluefin tuna transfer documents;
- analysing transfer videos and preparing reports and related documents;
- controlling the content of storage spaces and cold-storage rooms;
- preparing reports on non-compliances and infringements observed.

The objective of these new tasks assigned to fisheries administration controllers is to strengthen monitoring and control of fishing and transfer operations and to ensure compliance with the national regulation and the relevant ICCAT requirements.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2021 will be carried out in accordance with the conditions and methods for fishing live bluefin tuna in accordance with the new regulatory mechanism and ICCAT monitoring and control conditions and requirements.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of *ICCAT Recommendation amending Recommendation 19-04 on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna*, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Algeria in 2021 is 1,655 t.

For 2021, Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch 1,650 t, which will be distributed among the tuna purse seine vessel owners that have been selected in accordance with the fishing and maritime security regulatory conditions to participate in the 2021 campaign.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in the campaign are established in accordance with a national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation. The distribution criterion for individual quotas is based on the size of the vessels used (gross tonnage and vessel length).

For the 2021 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Algeria will allocate fishing quotas only to the tuna purse seine vessels with a length overall between 22 and 40 m. The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 19-04, i.e. 12 May 2021.

With regard to bycatch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation and that do not target bluefin tuna, will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Specimens taken as bycatch, alive or dead, will be discarded and recorded in logbooks. Any dead discard of bluefin tuna will be deducted from the balance of the Algerian quota. Accordingly, no catch has been indicated.

In this context, it should be noted that the entire Algerian fishery is traditional and during the period of passage of bluefin tuna in Algeria the weather is consistently bad, which reduces the trips and fishing activity.

It should be noted that for 2020, the bycatch taken by vessels targeting bluefin tuna are counted as part of the total catch and declared in the logbook and eBCD in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. These catches i.e. 2.3 t equivalent to 30 specimens were discarded into the water.

Regarding the bluefin tuna fishery opening period, and in accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 19-04, Algeria authorises fishing for bluefin tuna by purse seine vessels for the 2021, from 26 May to 1 July 2021.

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. [19-04] as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	Purse seiners participating in the fishing season must record catches (including null catches) in the logbook. The logbook is bound and maintained onboard the vessel in accordance with domestic regulations the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation. Weekly catches of bluefin tuna are communicated to the fishing administration in accordance with paragraphs 65-66 of Rec. 19-04.	Article 13 and its Annex 6 of the Order of 10 March 2019, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	Purse seine tuna vessels: 26 May 1 July.	Article 5 of the Order of 10 March 2019, which amends and supplements Article 23 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which	

			<p>establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.</p> <p>However, in accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 19-04, Algeria may possibly extend the fishing period of its affected vessels, by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing that all vessels are halted, including all vessels involved in joint fishing operations.</p>	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>115 cm - 30 kg. However, bycatch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm in relation to total catch may be authorised. Dead fish</p>	<p>Executive Decree No. 20-266 of 20 September 2020 which amends and supplements. Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fixes the minimum trade sizes of</p>	

		will be declared and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.	biological resources. Article 23 quarter of the Order of 18 March 2015, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	With regard to bycatch, vessels that do not hold a specific permit for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the Algerian regulation in place, are not authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 5 t allocated to bycatch or from Algeria's quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and counted against Algeria's quota. In addition, catches are controlled at port accesses by members of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.	Executive Decree No. 20 September 2020 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004, which fixes the minimum trade sizes of biological resources.	
5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)	There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting bluefin tuna in Algeria. No quota is allocated to recreational and sport fisheries.	Article 16 of Executive Decree No. 03-481, dated 13 December 2003 establishing the fishing conditions which stipulate that only bluefin tuna vessels carrying a fishing license are	

			authorised to catch bluefin tuna.	
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	Transshipment is prohibited.	Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.	
7.	VMS (para 105)	Legislative and regulatory obligation	Article 20 bis of Law No. 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on the fisheries and aquaculture, and Article 7 of the Order of 15 May 2012, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	For purse seine tuna vessels, VMS messages are transmitted every hour, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recs 19-04 and 18-10.
8	CPC observer programmes (para 83)	Boarding of two controllers / national observers onboard each of the bluefin tuna purse seine vessels actively targeting bluefin tuna throughout the fishing season. There is a 100% coverage for purse seine vessels.	Article 8 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Regulatory requirement: Purse seine tuna vessel owners are required to take onboard ICCAT regional observers.	Article 8 of the Order of 15 May 2012, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag	

			operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
	Other requirements, such as the tagging programme (para 45).	Use of video camera for transfer surveillance: Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraph 91 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 19-04.	Article 17 of the Order of 19 April 2010, which establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 30 tuna purse seine vessels, is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 1,650 t. Therefore, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

Algeria has proceeded to increase its fishing capacity so as to fish its full quota, in particular, through inclusion of new fishing vessels with developed and more efficient fishing methods to fish the quota allocated to Algeria.

This increase is in line with the annual catch rates corresponding to the fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS defined in the provisions of subsection (a) of paragraph 22 of Rec. 19-04.

However, it is important to note that despite the increase in number of tuna purse seine vessels, Algeria has a fishing undercapacity of 172.7 t.

Individual quotas are attributed in accordance with the national quota distribution criterion, which is established in the national regulation Ministerial Order of the 18 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.

The list of vessels that should participate in the 2021 fishing campaign will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 50 of Recommendation 19-04.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate

Algeria is not operating any bluefin tuna farming facilities in 2021.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2021 campaign, in accordance with national legislation and the domestic regulation and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out in-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2021 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign.

Two controllers / national observers board each of the tuna purse seine vessels throughout the fishing season. The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing, transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller / observer are required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 5 days before the authorisation period and will continue 5 days after the fishing campaign. The polling rate will be every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only, i.e.: Port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Bejaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran, port of Ténès, port of Bouzedjar and the port of Beni Saf. An inspection of products to be landed by tuna purse seine vessels that have participated in the bluefin tuna fishing season, and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guards). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at the annual meeting held in Dubrovnik, regarding the IMO number of fishing vessels on the ICCAT record, IMO number is a regulatory requirement of tuna vessels that will participate in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)

Algeria has more than 15 tuna vessels that will participate in the 2021 live bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

In the preparation of financial regulations for 2021, Algeria has initiated internal procedures with the Ministry of Finance to grant the necessary funds to hire an inspection vessel for the implementation of the joint international inspection programme.

However, it is important to note that in 2020 (2 January 2020) a new governmental organization was implemented. Previously the fishing sector depended on the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and on 2 January 2020 it was established as a ministerial department, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

This new organization will represent an obstacle for the release of funds that were allocated for this operation.

In addition, 2021 has been marked by the world health context due to the pandemic that has impacted and hindered considerably the steps taken to release the funding. Procedures need to be established, in particular regulatory procedures, to make the financial envelop available.

Therefore, Algeria will not operate an inspection vessel in 2021 for implementation of the joint international inspection programme.

It is important to note that within the context of international joint inspection, Algerian vessels undergo inspections by inspection vessels of the European Union and Tunisia. The results of each of these visits are taken into account to improve the national regulatory arrangements.

In addition, despite the difficulties encountered by Algeria to commission its inspection vessels, efforts have been made to participate with other CPCs (Tunisia and the EU) in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection.

It should be noted that at no time does Algeria consider or indicate that at-sea inspections are not necessary. To the contrary, explications have been provided on how difficult it is to deploy an inspection vessel due to the world health circumstances. However, Algeria has presented in its fishing plan an alternative approach in accordance with paragraph 111 of Rec. 19-04.

In this context and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 111 of Recommendation 19-04, Algeria has carried out a risk analysis of alternative measures, which can be summarised as follows:

As regards authorisation to fish, it should be noted that pursuant to regulations, bluefin tuna fishing is only authorised to those vessels carrying a fishing license, with individual quotas, issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Resources.

As to monitoring of fishing campaigns, Algerian tuna purse seine vessels are monitored by VMS by the National Coast Guards Service and the Fisheries Administration.

Also, tuna purse seine fishing vessels that only participate in international waters carry out bluefin tuna fishing, inspected by European Union or Tunisian inspection vessels during each inspection campaign.

In addition, fishing administration inspectors onboard tuna vessels submit to the fisheries administration reports on monitoring of the fishing campaign and enquiries based on crosschecks of information are carried out in the case of potential non-compliance with the national regulation and ICCAT rules.

In addition, it should be noted that Algeria has strengthened compliance with regard to the fisheries through implementation of the legislative provisions transcribed in the new law 15-08 that regulates the fisheries and aquaculture and carries heavier sanctions and penalties including custodial sentences, depending on the type of infringement incurred.

5. Others

Tuna vessel fleet		Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	8	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	20	24	27	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	597.36	597.36	995.60	1194.72	1344.06
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36	33.68
Purse seine total fleet		8	15	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	14	14	22	26	28	398.24	730.60	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	614.94	614.94	664.72	664.72	1062.96	1262.08	1377.74
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68	0.00	5.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total longline fleet		2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	10.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	16.36	16.36	10.68	10.68	0.00	5.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Traps	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Total fleet/fishing capacity		10	18	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	22	26	28	408.92	746.28	596.94	596.94	596.94	597.62	597.62	625.62	625.62	664.72	670.40	1062.96	1262.08	1377.74
Quota																1460.04	1460.04	1306.35	138.46	138.56	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																1460.04	1460.04	684.90	138.46	138.46	243.83	243.83	369.81	425.98	1043.70	1300.00	1437.00	1650.00	1650.00
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity																-1051.12	-713.76	-87.96	-458.48	-458.48	-353.79	-353.79	-255.81	-199.64	-378.98	-629.60	-374.04	-387.92	-272.26

A quota of 5 t is set aside for bycatch.

CHINA

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

1.1 Introduction

According to Recommendation 19-04, China was allocated 102 metric tons BFT in 2021 fishing season, China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea as same as last several years.

The *Fisheries Law* and the *Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management* are the main national legislation to manage Chinese deep sea fishing vessels to conduct fishing activities on the high seas. In addition, we also issued the *VMS Management regulation* and *Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management* which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on our deep sea fishing vessels, besides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs updated and re-issued the ministerial-level document *Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures* which enter into force from 1 January of 2019, include the main requirement contained in the ICCAT recommendation 19-04, such as the minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, logbook requirement, fishing season and designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

1.2 Details of fishing plan

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT and they are all longliners, both vessels will be allocated to 50.5 tons, each vessel hold one half of the 101t, the other 1t will be allocated for possibly bycatch and discarded catch.

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company, we could manage the quotas through the following ways:

Observer program: usually we implement 100% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in Rec. 19-04, the observer must familiar with the BFT recommendation and will record every day the accurate weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG weight.

Catch report: we have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch report and we could cross-check the catch. The fishing vessel owner will be notified when 80% and 90% of the catch is reached, and the BFT fishing vessel must cease to fish and immediately leave the fishing ground when the quota is exhausted.

Logbook: the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook (both paper and electronic), including any other bycatch and incidental catch.

Landing\transshipment: only the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use port of Dakar in Senegal. Chinese vessels will only be authorized to land EBFT in Dakar and that transshipments in port (in addition to at sea transshipments), are not allowed.

VMS requirement: we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.

Catch documentation: using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.

BFT bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by west of 10°W and north of 42°N, and no fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no bycatch and small-scale BFT. However, we reserved 1 t for discarded catch just in case.

Training program: each year we will hold a training program for the fishing vessel owner and vessel master, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec.19-04 was translated into Chinese and distribute to them for their better understanding and learning.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	We distribute to every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook (both paper and electronic) and ask the master to fill it in timely and accurately, the BFT must land and transship at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch. We will issue the warning notice when the quota approaches 80% and 90% respectively of the total. When the quota was exhausted we will ask the fishing vessels to stop operation and leave the fishing ground immediately, then we report the closure to Secretariat at once.	1.Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management 2.Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs For example, Section 2, Logbook: Each tuna fishing vessel must file in the logbook and record truly all the catches including marine mammals. The bluefin tuna company must report its catches to the China Overseas Fisheries Association daily/weekly/monthly.	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the end of September until the quotas were exhausted but before usually the end of the year given the very few limited quotas.	1.Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management 2.Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs For example, Section 4: Fishing area and gear limitation and prohibition: the fishing seasons and fishing area in the Atlantic Ocean should be from 1 August to 31 January next year, in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	

3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor the Minimum size, any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which is corresponding to Rec.19-04, prohibit to catch, retain, transship, land and sell BFT less than 30kg or 115cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	<p>1.Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management</p> <p>2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management.</p> <p>3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs For example, Section 5: Vessels targeting BFT in the Atlantic Ocean must follow the minimum size.</p>	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	Bycatch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels. Any vessels other than BFT fishing vessels are prohibited to catch, retain and transship BFT. Any BFT caught by other vessels are not issued eBCD. All the bycatch must be discarded. These discarded BFT will be counted against China's BFT quota and these data will be reported to ICCAT. And we allocate 1 t for such kind of discard bycatch.	<p>1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management</p> <p>2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management, which stipulated that tuna fishing vessel is obliged to board national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements.</p> <p>3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. For example, Section 3: Fishing quota: tuna fishing vessel is not allowed to catch if no quota is allocated.</p>	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such fishery.	
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	Only in the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends	<p>1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management</p> <p>2. Notice on further strictly comply with</p>	

		to use the port of Dakar in Senegal. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC. Chinese vessels will only be authorized to land EBFT in Dakar and that transshipments in port (in addition to at sea transshipments), are not allowed.	tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs For example: Section 7: transshipment: Longline tuna fishing vessels targeting Atlantic BFT is only allowed to conduct transshipment at the designated port in accordance with relevant ICCAT requirement.	
7	VMS (para 105)	The VMS could be reported to the Secretariat directly and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform. From our platform we could monitor and poll 24 positions per day, once every one hour which is higher than ICCAT requirement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management 2. VMS Management Regulation, which stipulates that vessels must report their position once every hour. 3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs 	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	Usually we will implement 100% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulate in Rec. 19-04.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulation on Distant Water fishery Management 2. Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management, which stipulates that tuna fishing vessels are obliged to board national observers according to tuna-RFMOs requirements. 3. Notice on further strictly comply with tuna RFMOs management measures issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs 	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	

	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Since only two fishing vessels engage in BFT fishing and these two vessels belong to one company, according to Fisheries Law of PRC, Chinese fishing vessels must be compliant with measures adopted by RFMO of which China is a contracting party. Chinese fishery competent authority has notified relevant company of such ICCAT requirement on BFT.	
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2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Please see the attachment.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable as China has no BFT farming.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Only in the designated port authorized by ICCAT can these vessels conduct landing or transshipment activities. China intends to use port of Dakar in Senegal. The vessels are required to follow the regulation set by the port CPC. Chinese vessels will only be authorized to land EBFT in Dakar and that transshipments in port (in addition to at sea transshipments), are not allowed.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Not applicable as China has two BFT fishing vessels.

5. Others

Not applicable as China has no such research projects.

EGYPT

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

The allocated Quota 2021 for Egypt fishing season is 330 t.

The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2021 fishing season in total is 326.7 t.

The Egyptian fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea are purse seiner fishing vessels (P.S.). The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) is the Egyptian authority in Egypt which enforces the ministerial decrees as they relate to Egyptian fishermen.

GAFRD will licence P.S. to catch BFT for the 2021 fishing season which starts on 15 May 2021 and ends on 1 July 2021 as soon as those vessels are selected and the ICCAT Secretariat will be informed of the vessel names, in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 19-04.

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of bluefin tuna.

Decree Number (830) for the year 2019

- Article (1): The prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 2 July to 25 May of the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.
- Article (2): Transfer of any bluefin tuna at sea is prohibited unless it has been previously authorized by the relevant authority.
- Article (3): Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 19-04.

Decree Number (828) for the year 2011

- Article (1): The prohibition on fishing bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.
- Article (2): All transfers from purse seiners to towing cages shall be monitored by video camera and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions in the context of ICCAT Rec. 19-04.

Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011

- Article (1): The prohibition on using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except in the port of EL-Meadia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.
- Article (2): Prohibition on vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019

- Article (3): All authorized BFT fishing vessels masters shall use and record fishing logbook in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 19-04.

Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019

- Article (1): As a deadline each year on 15 February, an allocated quota of blue fine tuna shall be specified as by catch of the total allowed quota.

- Article (2): All bluefin tuna bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board, the percentage calculated per each trip in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).
- Article (3): All by catch shall be landed at the designated port and shall be monitored / inspected by the assigned inspector at the designated port, relative procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.
- Article (4): All discarded by-catch of bluefin tuna whether alive or dead in status should be reported to the authority immediately.
- Article (5): All exceeded by catch shall be deducted against the total allowed quota.

In the case of non-compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishery for the next season, and in case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	All information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD - using available inspection reports, regional and national observers' reports also Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.	Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011 Resolution Number (829/#1) for the year 2019	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	Tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 2 July to 14 May of the next year. Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period. The authorized period for fishing bluefin is from 15 May 2021 - 1 July 2021.	Resolution Number (830) for the year 2019	

		<p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 19-04, Egypt may possibly extend its fishing period in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period.</p> <p>Fishing season may extend up to 10 days based on operators' request, due to bad weather conditions.</p> <p>No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.</p>		
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 shall be strictly implemented.</p> <p>National observer / inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the relevant ICCAT Recommendation rec. 19-04 during the season.</p> <p>The prohibition on fishing bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.</p> <p>Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT weighting (8 to 30 kg) or fork length 75 to 115 cm may be authorized.</p> <p>All live undersized BFT must be released into the sea and dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota.</p>	Decree Number (828) for the year 2011	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	Egypt shall specify allocated quota for bycatch 1% of the total allowed quota yearly.	Resolution Number (831) for the year 2019	

		<p>In 2021 fishing season a quantity of 3.3 t is specified as quota for bycatch.</p> <p>The basis for setting 1% (3.3t) is that there is no bycatch recorded in 2020.</p> <p>All bycatch quantities shall be calculated for each trip against the total catch on board which must not exceed 20% from the total catch on board. Those quantities as bycatches shall be calculated in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens).</p> <p>Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are monitored by our national inspectors in landing ports to count any bycatches of BFT (if any) in order to ensure implementation of ICCAT Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>All our inspectors in landing ports have been instructed to monitor and report any bycatch of BFT throughout the year.</p> <p>In the case of occurrence of BFT bycatch, investigation shall be done in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>Egypt shall submit quarterly its bycatch report and final report by the end of the year declaring all BFT bycatches (if any) which must be deducted from the specified bycatch quota of the year.</p>		
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		<p>In case of exceeding the assigned quota for bycatch, all excess quantities must be deducted from the next year's assigned quota for bycatch.</p> <p>The amount of by-catch discarded whether alive or dead in status should be reported to the authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. At the same time, all by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Egypt, according to ICCAT Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>All quantities of BFT bycatch shall be landed only at the designated ports.</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.	Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 19-04.	Decree Number (830) for the year 2011	
7	VMS (para 105)	All authorized BFT vessels fishing actively in the 2021 fishing season, shall be equipped with a fulltime operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD, on the basis of a transmission every 1 hour as minimum requirement.		
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	One of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the	Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011	

		ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions. The permanent observer in port is assigned to follow up the landed catches (if any) and reviewing the onboard observers reports.		
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send deployment request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have Arabic speaker observer (s) for the authorized fishing vessel (as the case may be). All BFT vessels, fishing actively in 2021 fishing season have to be covered (100%) by two observers (one national observer and one ICCAT ROP Observer).		
10	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Egypt is not involved in the tagging programme.		

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The GAFRD will allocate to each P.S. an individual quota and it will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota according to Recommendation 19-04.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

No farming activities will take place in 2021.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2020 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e. fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any.

In case of any BFT landing after receiving notification from the catching vessel an inspection shall be done by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort.

According to the national law No. 124/1983, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in cases of emergency.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Egypt is not involved in an international inspections plan up till now.

5. Others

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>														
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																												
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	34	34	34	34	34	34	33.7	0	33.68	33.68	33.68
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46	83.46	83.46
Longliner over 40m	25																												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																												
Longliner less than 24m	5																												
Total longline fleet																													
Baitboat	19.8																												
Handline	5																												
Trawler	10																												
Trap	130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																												
Other (please specify)	5																												
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		2	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	83.46	83.46	83.46
Quota																0	50	33	65	65	77	77	79	100	113.67	181	266	330	330
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																									123.67			326.7	326.7¹
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																													
Under/ overcapacity																													

¹ 3.3 t is set aside for bycatch.

EUROPEAN UNION

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Introduction

The European Union hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans and its Farming Management plan for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) for 2021.

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by more artisanal sectors, such as the baitboats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The eight EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspections means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU Law ICCAT Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending ICCAT Recommendation [08-05], adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan, which took place under ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. Regulation 544/2014 transposed these additional measures into EU law. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] replaced by Recommendation [17-07]. Regulation (EU) 2019/833² partially transposes Recommendation [18-02] replaced by Recommendation [19-04]. The EU is currently working in the full transposition of the Recommendation [19-04]. In the meantime, and pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, international agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States. In these circumstances, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, and in particular Recommendation [19-04].

2. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

In 2021, the EU will implement the provisions of Recommendation [19-04].

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation 19-04, the quota for the EU in 2021 will be 19,460 t. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 19-04, the EU has the intention to request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2020 quota to 2021. The decision to make effective this transfer as well as the exact quantities will be communicated at a later stage.

EU has drawn up the annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas. All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels', and will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2021 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 50 of the Rec. [19-04].

² Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (hereinafter: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/833).

The EU has allocated quotas³ to the following sectors:

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>	<i>2021</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Fleet (No. vessels)</i>	<i>Quota allocated (t)</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	30	6119.50
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	35	4386.77
Purse seiners less than 24m	5	225.53
Total Purse Seine fleet	70	10731.80
Longliner over 40m	0	0,00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	4	46.14
Longliner less than 24m	193	1616.84
Total longline fleet	197	1662.98
Baitboat	76	1311.75
Handline	60	253.53
Trawler	57	385.50
Trap	13	2264.68
Small scale ⁴	1022	1773.51
Other	74	267.50
Total fleet/fishing allocation	1567	18651.25
Quota		19460.00
Recreational		136.06
Bycatch reserve		672.69
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		18651.25
Under-capacity (t)		0.00

The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendations [19-04], [06-07], [18-13], [18-12] and [18-10].

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. [19-04] as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

³ The EU capacity plan shows the potential capacity that EU can deploy, with the maximum number and length category of vessels and the minimum quota that should be allocated to each gear type following the catch rates in accordance with the methodology approved in the 2009 annual meeting. The EU fishing plan on the other hand shows the actual number and length category of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2020 and the quota allocated to them. In 2020, the number of vessels in the fishing plan (1429) is lower than the number in the capacity plan (1457). The quota allocated in the fishing plan is higher than the correspondent quota when using the catch rates. This is the indication that there is not overcapacity.

⁴ A sectorial quota has been allocated to the small-scale coastal vessels in accordance with para 19a of Recommendation [19-04].

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps shall send daily reports to their flag Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission, which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat. In 2021, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 ⁵ Section 2 Article 25 "Recording Requirements" "Catches", Article 26 "Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators", Article 27 "Weekly and monthly catch reports sent by the Member States", Article 28 "Information on quota exhaustion" Article 29 "Yearly reporting of catches by the Member States".	All catch reports are recorded at EU level, and crosschecked with authorizations, s individual quotas, s national quotas and s JFO quotas (when relevant). In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are covered by Art. 25 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627.
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT Rec. [19-04]. Art 11 and Art 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 implement them into EU law. According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted. In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 12 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", SECTION 1 "Fishing seasons", Article 11 "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries" Article 12 "Baitboats and trolling boats"	According to provisions in Recommendation [19-04], fishing seasons will be as follows: Fishing season for purse seine vessels will be from 26 May to 1 July. By derogation, the fishing season for purse seiner will be extended until 15 July in the Adriatic Sea. Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of the respect of the fishing seasons. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation [19-04], EU may extend its fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of 10 days in case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		A special reporting and alert system is in place to verify at EU level the quota used in each Member State for each fleet.		Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs, evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessel members of the JFO is to be proven.
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>According to Art. 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, incidental catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota.</p> <p>Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013 establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, bycatch", Article 14 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 15 "Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 14(2).	<p>For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92⁶ of 28 January 2021 and Annex IV, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned.</p> <p>Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the JDP (Joint Deployment plan) (see 3.2.2.).</p> <p>A tolerance of a maximum of 7% weight for specimens with a minimum size of 6.4 or 66 cm caught for farming purposes by PS operating in the Adriatic Sea.</p>
4	Bycatch (para 38)	In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as bycatch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quota in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU)	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, bycatch", Article 16 "Bycatch"	A bycatch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021. Catching vessels not fishing actively bluefin tuna shall not retain on

⁶ Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021 fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>2021/92 of 28 January 2021.</p> <p>For more visibility and transparency, a quota of 672.69 t allocated to bycatch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT.</p> <p>In 2019 and 2020, the level of bycatches from the EU vessels amounted 484 t and 444 t respectively, far below the quota allocated in 2021. Additionally, the EU Member States also do transfer of quotas to cover the bycatches, should there be a need to.</p>		<p>board bluefin tuna exceeding 20 % of the total catch by weight or number of specimens, compared to tuna and tuna-like species.</p> <p>For small-scale coastal vessels, the amount of bycatch may be calculated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Any bycatch in excess of the 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip shall be released alive whenever possible.</p> <p>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU Regulation (EU) 404/2011 provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook.</p> <p>All bycatches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.</p>
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	<p>Recreational and sport fisheries are managed in different ways across the EU from a total ban of these activities to a catch and release or a maximum catch per vessel and day.</p> <p>In any case, dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota.</p> <p>In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational quota in the 2021 fishing plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established based on a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter IV "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"</p> <p>Article 19 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"</p>	<p>Under Art. 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards that information to the SCRS.</p> <p>According to para 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98, the limit of one fish per vessel per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. The European Commission through verification missions assesses these programs.		
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	<p>Transshipments at sea are prohibited.</p> <p>Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.</p>	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 3" Landings and transshipments", Article 32 "Transshipment"	Art. 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports. Full inspection coverage is ensured during all transshipment times and at all transshipment places.
7	VMS (para 105)	<p>The team responsible within the EU for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place.</p> <p>All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.</p>	<p>According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 49 Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are bound to take necessary direct measures designed to ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations by their vessels and, as appropriate, their nationals.</p>	<p>EU also follows the additional provisions set up ICCAT Recommendation [18-10].</p> <p>VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least once every one hour for purse seine vessels and once every two hours for other vessels. A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.</p>
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	Masters of any fishing vessel holding a European licence for Eastern BFT pelagic trawler, long liner, baitboat and traps as well as masters of towing vessels receive national observers according to measures set up by Regulation (EU) 2016/1627.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance" Article 50 "National observer programme"	<p>Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers.</p> <p>The minimum national observer coverages in vessels other than purse</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
				<p>seiners are established in accordance with para 83 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial presence of national observers on their vessels and traps to ensure that the European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework.</p>
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Section 6 "Monitoring and surveillance"</p> <p>Article 51 "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme".</p>	
10	Tagging programme (para 45)	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 5 of (EU) Reg. 640/2010.	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5d of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12].
		Up to 275 ⁷ sport/recreational vessels will conduct catch-and-release activities in the context of		Sport or recreational vessels intending to conduct catch-and-release activities from 1 st July to

⁷ The number and period is subject to revision according to the level of funding and weather conditions.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes. The activity is expected to run from mid-June to mid-November⁷ in the areas around Ireland, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Sound.</p> <p>The objective of the project will be to study the horizontal and vertical distribution and stock composition of the Bluefin tuna, to define periods of residency and philopatry, and to understand overlap between fishing activity and tuna spatial distribution as well as behaviour of tuna over periods of months, its migration patterns, population ecology, genetic specificities and its role in the ecosystem as a predator.</p> <p>Researchers will report about their activities in accordance the provisions applicable for this in ICCAT. The data collection will be consistent with the ICCAT GBYP research programme, and will be communicated to and discussed with ICCAT as necessary.</p>		<p>31st December, in the context of scientific projects of Marine Institutes integrated in scientific programmes shall be authorised. Fitting and operation of a simple VMS system will be a requirement of the authorisation.</p> <p>National Control Authorities would monitor the activities of these vessels both at sea and at landing to ensure compliance with National and EU Regulations.</p> <p>Tagging will be operated by staff of Marine Institutes or by recreational fishing vessel operators. Operators concerned will be trained in tagging using Floy (spaghetti) or electronic tags.</p> <p>Any person authorised to target bluefin tuna in a catch-tag-release fishery shall not retain on board, tranship, transfer, tow, land, transport, store or sell bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna caught alive shall not be removed from the sea but, if so, shall be carefully handled and returned alive to the waters from which it was taken.</p> <p>Any bluefin tuna that dies during capture must be recorded and discarded by returning immediately to the sea. The master of the vessel concerned shall immediately report to the flag authorities any discards of bluefin tuna in that trip.</p>

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
11	Intra-farm transfers and random controls in farms (para 103)	<p>Traceability in farms shall be ensured, including by way of the control of all transfers of tuna between cages ('intra-farm transfers'). Transfers undertaken by the farm operators between farm cages of the same farm shall follow all the requirements of transfers as laid down in paragraph 92 of ICCAT Recommendation [19-04] and hence require the necessary completion in the eBCD system. The presence of control authorities is mandatory for such transfers.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 103 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04], random controls shall take place in farms between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following year and, preferably before the start of the bulk harvesting. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other empty farm cage(s) in order that the number of BFT can be counted by way of control video record(s).</p> <p>The number of controls shall be decided by the farm Member State authorities on the basis of their risk assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the number of controls per year shall cover not less than either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of the total number of cages in each farm under each farm MS jurisdiction, always involving at 		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		<p>least one control/cage and, rounded up where needed, or,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of the total fish reported in the farm cages in each farm. <p>If required, following the outcome of the risk analysis, the percentages referred to above can be increased as necessary.</p> <p>Transfers shall follow all the requirements as laid down in paragraph 91 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04] and hence require the necessary completion in the eBCD system.</p> <p>The MS farm control authorities responsible for the controls shall require that the video footage is of sufficient quality to accurately count the number of specimens of BFT. If this is not the case, the operation shall be repeated.</p> <p>For those controls where transfer(s) need to be repeated, the farming cages concerned shall be blocked by way of seals and the control authorities shall take the necessary measures to avoid manipulation of the contents of the concerned cage(s) prior to the transfer. Such measures must be documented.</p> <p>Differences in number of BFT as a result of the random controls shall be duly investigated following the procedures in the EU joint deployment plan (JDP) and recorded in the eBCD system. In the event that differences in number of BFT are found to be in excess, the farm</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		MS farm control authorities shall order a release order for the corresponding amount(s).		
12	Carry-over estimations in farms (para 9)	<p>In accordance with the measures laid down in para 9 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04], the following procedures shall be followed for the implementation of carry-over assessments:</p> <p>Between the 7 September at the latest and the first caging of the following year, all fish remaining in cages reported in the Carry-over Declaration shall be transferred to other empty farm cages in order that they can be counted and estimates of weight be taken by way of stereoscopic cameras.</p> <p>Until SRCS review the growth tables as referred to in para 28 of ICCAT Rec [19-04], average weights shall be estimated according to the current growth tables taking into account the fish that has already been harvested from the cages concerned.</p> <p>Additional measures and procedures are under development and will be communicated in due course.</p>		
19	Sectorial quota	<p>A total sectorial quota is allocated to a group of small-scale vessels with special fishing authorisations, valid for a defined season going from one to four months.</p> <p>The fleets and gear types under the small-scale category are very heterogeneous in the EU. Each EU Member State is responsible for the monitoring of its fleet, including quota uptake, according to the EU</p>		

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
		legislation control regulation ⁸ in place and the national legislation. The quota uptake is monitored following the national legislation.		

3. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

4. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

The farming management plan for EU is detailed below. This plan may be subject to amendment in line with paragraph 24 of Recommendation [19-04].

	<i>Wild input (t) 2021</i>	<i>Capacity (t) 2021</i>
Spain	6,850	11,852
Italy	3,214	12,600
Greece	785	2,100
Cyprus	2,195	3,000
Croatia	2,947	7,880
Malta	8,786	12,300
Portugal	350 ⁹	500 ¹⁰
Total EU	24,777 t	49,732 t

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

⁹ The total farming capacity of Portugal of 500 t (corresponding to 350 tonnes of input farming capacity) is covered by the unused capacity of the European Union.

¹⁰ Figures provided in the table are provisional, awaiting the end of negotiations among EU Member States on the allocation between farms within the limits set by the wild input and maximum capacity ceiling of the EU. A revised farming management plan will be submitted to ICCAT prior to 1st June as necessary in line with paragraph 24 of Rec. [19-04].

Farm Name	ICCAT FFB	Geographical coordinates		Wild Input (t)^{8,11}	Capacity (t)⁹
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00001	N 37°45,95' W 00°39,49'		1,200	2,560
Atunes de Mazarron	ATEU1ESP00002 ¹²	A:37°47'36.47"N 00°40'55.56"W B:37°47'36.55"N 01°22'45.30"W C:37°30'15.90"N 01°23'03.02"W D:37°30'24.94"N		0	277
Caladeros del Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00003	A:37°34'30.40"N 00°49'95.30"W B:37°34'06.60"N 00°50'11.40"W C:67°34'25.80"N 00°50'56.20"W D:37°34'49.60"N 00°50'40.10"W		2,200	3,100
Ensenada de Barbate	ATEU1ESP00004	36°09'13" N 5°55'45" W		1,000	1,400
Balfegó Tuna, S.L.	ATEU1ESP00005	A: 40° 51,5'N 00° 51,0 'E B: 40° 51,95'N 00° 51,17'E C: 40° 51,57'N 00° 51,5'E D: 40° 51,9'N 00° 51,61'E		2,450	3,550
Piscifactorias de Levante	ATEU1ESP00006	A:37°47'36.47"N00°40'55.06"W B:37°47'35.98"N00°40'30.55"W C:37°47'19.77"N00°40'31.06"W D:37°47'20.26"N 00°40'55.57"W		0	100
Proyecto de Engorde de Atún Rojo en Estructuras Flotantes Desmontables	ATEU1ESP00008 ¹⁰	A:37°34'25"N 00°52'32"W B:37°34'25"N 00°52'12"W C:37°34'13"N 00°52'32"W D:37°34'13"N 00°52'12"W		0	235
Tuna Graso	ATEU1ESP00011 ¹⁰	37°34'06,341"N; 0°52'39,300"W 37°33'59,998"N; 0°53'12,358"W 37°33'44,272"N; 0°53'12,802"W 37°33'43,683"N; 0°52'39,943"W		0	230
Nature Pesca S.L.	ATEU1ESP00013 ¹⁰	A: 37° 13,79°N 0001° 44,803 W B:37° 13,1°N 001W C:37° 13,6°N 001° 44,5W D:37° 13,2°N 001 45,2 W		0	200
Mediterraneo	ATEU1ESP00014 ¹⁰	A: 37° 49',6N 000° 40',7 W C: 37° 49',6N 000° 40',4W B: 37° 49',0 N 000° 40',5 W D: 37° 49',0 N 000° 41',0 W"		0	200
Jadran Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00008	y 5540056,00 5540410,00 5539883,45 5540237,52	x 4854937,00 4854333,00 4854835,87 4854231,75	736.75	1,110
Pelagos Net Farma D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00011	y 5521777,07 5522396,80 5522324,84 5521705,39	x 4865868,10 4865705,51 4865434,70 4865597,28	736.75	900
Sardina D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00006	y 5620531 5620851,14 5620663,29 5620343,141	x 4795026,75 4794700 4794518,74 4794846,83	736.75	1,400

¹¹ Figures of wild input for inactive farms will be provided in the revised farming plan prior to 1st June in line with paragraph 24 of Rec. 19-04.

¹² Farms currently inactive but subject to be active in the future.

Kali Tuna D.O.O.	ATEU1HRV00012	y 5514248,71 5514346,2201 5514401,68 5514499,2376	x 4877864,54 4877750,5522 4877993,40 4877879,4528	736.75	4,470
		5515214,66 5514694,4002 5515061,69 5514541,3353	4877043,84 4877651,5991 4876914,98 4877522,6578		
		5517392,279 5517553,927 5517303,667 5517142,018	4868049,255 4867931,485 4867587,981 4867705,751		
		5517801,279 5517962,927 5517712,667 5517551,018	4867662,255 4867544,485 4867200,981 4867318,751		
		5493440,00 5493498,70 5494068,42 5494006,73	4892040,00 4892120,96 4891710,08 4891629,12		
		5494273,27 5494331,97 5494898,70 5494840,00	4891535,88 4891516,84 4891105,96 4891025,00		
		5509116 5509264 5508712 5508860	4875654 4875520 4875211 4875076		
		MFF	ATEU1MLT00004		
Ta Mattew	ATEU1MLT00007	35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E)	356.3	500	
Fish & Fish	ATEUMLT00003	35.8640 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8640 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8495 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8496 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8352 (N) 14.6430 (E)	2,138.0	3,000	
Mare Blu	ATEUMLT00008	35.8930 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6430 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6600 (E) 35.8930 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8785 (N) 14.6770 (E) 35.8784 (N) 14.6600 (E)	2,138.0	3,000	
MML	ATEUMLT00002	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1,140.3	1,600	
AJD	ATEUMLT00001	35.58.33 (N) 14.24.48 (E) 35.58.45 (N) 14.24.54 (E) 35.58.34 (N) 14.25.43 (E) 35.58.19 (N) 14.25.38 (E)	1,211.5	1,700	
Tuniraise	ATEU1PRT00002	N 37° 01.006' W 07° 42.615' N 37° 00.975' W 07° 42.607' N 37° 01.048' W 07° 42.500' N 37° 01.024' W 07° 42.485'	350.0	500	

Kitiana Fisheries Ltd.	ATEU1CYP00002 ¹⁰	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko). Coordinates : 33° 14' 95" E; 34° 41' 09" N.	731,66	1,000
Oceanis Aquaculture Ltd	ATEU1CYP00003 ¹⁰	South coast of Cyprus (Vasiliko). Coordinates : 33° 16' 03" E; 34° 40' 79" N.	731,66	1,000
Kimagro Fishfarming Ltd	ATEU1CYP00001 ¹⁰	South coast of Cyprus (Limassol). Coordinates: 33° 02' 40" E 34° 38' 49" N	731,66	1,000
Bluefin Tuna Hellas S.A.	ATEU1GRC00001 ¹¹	Echinades Islands, Prefecture of Kefallonia - Ithaki Islands		1,000
Poseidon Tuna Hellas S.A.	ATEU1GRC00002 ¹⁰	Messaras Gulf Prefecture Of Herakleion		1,100
New Eurofish S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00001 ¹⁰			1,500
Tuna Fish S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00004 ¹⁰			700
Pescazzurra S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00005 ¹⁰			1,500
Consorzio Operatori Del Tonno Del Mediterraneo	ATEU1ITA00006 ¹⁰			1,500
Soc. Ittica Trappeto A.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00007 ¹⁰			600
Jonica Pesca S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00008 ¹⁰			2,000
Procida Tuna Farm S.R.L.	ATEU1ITA00009 ¹⁰			300
Iorio Gennaro	ATEU1ITA00011 ¹⁰			600
La Favorita Snc	ATEU1ITA00015 ¹⁰			500
Ittica Offshore Del Tirreno S.P.A.	ATEU1ITA00016 ¹⁰			300
De.Mo. Pesca di Pasquale della Monica & C. s.a.s.	ATEU1ITA00017 ¹¹			600
Soc. Coop. Pescatori San Francesco di Paola	ATEU1ITA00019 ¹¹			1,200
Orizon Maritimas Italia SARL	ATEU1ITA00020 ¹¹			1,300

5. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

5.1 CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 5.2 below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

5.1.1 European Commission inspections

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the Bluefin tuna management plan and associated ICCAT Recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2021 fishing campaign, European Commission inspectors will once again be very active in 2021.

5.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

5.2 Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

5.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)¹³ to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Bluefin tuna management and Swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

5.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, Mediterranean Swordfish from 2017 and Mediterranean Albacore from 2018. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, traps and farms.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2021 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessel and aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2021 JDP will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities. In 2021, the EU will conduct a minimum of

¹³ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

299 days of control and inspection activities at sea and 57 flights of air surveillance, which reflects the number of days committed for all fisheries under the JDP.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment. Cooperation of EFCA in the context of Coastguard function through sightings reported by FRONTEX assets has allowed identifying serious PNCs in non-EU waters in recent years.

5.2.3 Control of caging operations

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The specific measures adopted, including those under Annex 9 of Rec. [19-04], are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. As in previous years, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras in 2021.

5.2.4 Member States annual Inspection plans

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2021 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for Bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [19-04]. In order to strengthen controls of live fish, additional control measures will be taken to establish a greater control of carry-over operations as well as to establish a level of random controls based on risk assessment to ensure traceability of intra-farms transfers.

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>													
Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	17	37	43	28	30
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	29	17	18	34	35
Purse seiners less than 24m	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	4	5	5
Total Purse Seine Fleet	241	87	51	38	38	38	45	45	47	49	58	65	67	70
Longliner over 40m									0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	1	12	12	1	4
Longliner less than 24m	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	94	127	164	85	193
Total Longline Fleet	336	207	206	178	98	95	110	141	147	95	139	176	86	197
Baitboat	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	62	88	106	56	76
Handline	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	42	46	46	52	60
Trawler	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	57	57	57	49	57
Trap	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	12	12	14	13	13
Small scale												870	936	1022
Other	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	465	715	52	61	74
Total fleet/fishing capacity	1174	870	824	610	461	438	600	720	691	782	1115	1386	1320	1567

Fishing capacity (t)															
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70,7	2685	2473	1625	1413	1413	1413	1272	1272	1485	1273	2616	3040	1980	2121
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49,78	4530	2190	1394	896	896	896	1245	1294	1195	1394	846	896	1693	1742
Purse seiners less than 24m	33,68	3772	269	0	0	0	0	67	34	67	101	135	135	168	168
Total Purse Seine Fleet		10987	4933	3019	2309	2309	2309	2584	2600	2747	2767	3597	4071	3841	4032
Longliner over 40m	25									0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5,68	40	74	85	57	45	34	34	28	28	6	68	68	6	23
Longliner less than 24m	5	1645	970	955	840	450	445	520	680	710	470	635	820	425	965
Total Longline Fleet		1685	1044	1040	897	495	479	554	708	738	476	703	888	431	988
Baitboat	19,8	1343	1363	1363	1343	1343	1343	435	454	1485	1228	1742	2099	1109	1505
Handline	5	505	190	155	155	155	155	505	210	200	210	230	230	260	300
Trawler	10	1600	720	780	600	600	570	570	570	510	570	570	570	490	570
Trap	130	1950	1950	1690	1690	1560	1820	1560	1820	1820	1560	1560	1820	1690	1690
Small scale	N/A												4350	4680	5110
Other	5	1265	1910	1880	1110	770	675	1265	1990	1585	2325	3575	260	305	370
Total fleet/fishing capacity		19335	12109	9927	8104	7233	7351	7473	8352	9085	9136	11977	14288	12805	14564
Quota		17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850	17536	19460	19460
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451	15850	17536	18657	18651,25
Undercapacity (t)		3124	-438	2446	1972	1100	-587	-466	-1021	-2118	-4316	-3873	-3248	-5852	-4087,25

ICELAND

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

The eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota of Iceland for the year 2021 is 180 t, according to Recs. 19-04/20-07. Iceland may catch beyond 180 t in 2021 by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 combined shall not exceed 591 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t + 180 t). The revised quota of Iceland therefore is 225 tonnes, with 10 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches. Two Icelandic longline vessels will be authorized to conduct directed fisheries for BFT in 2021. The longline season starts on August 1 and ends when the quota has been exhausted or at latest December 31. Eventual bycatches of BFT by other Icelandic fishing vessels will be reported to ICCAT.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis. All fishing vessels are required to have electronic logbooks and landings are monitored and recorded in the database of the Directorate of Fisheries.

All Icelandic fishing vessels are required to register all catches and bycatches in electronic logbooks.

The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on ITQs and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing.

The longliners will each be allocated an individual quota for 107,5 tonnes each, and 10 tonnes reserved for incidental bycatches by other Icelandic fishing vessels, if needed the quota reserved for incidental bycatches will be adjusted to cover all catches. Bycatches of BFT by Icelandic fishing vessels in 2020 were 839 kilos.

Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs, electronic logbooks and mandatory weighing of all catches at landing. The Directorate keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration of the Directorate which is publicly available at ([Find ship / Individual vessels / Vefur Fiskistofu \(fiskistofa.is\)](#)). Discards of commercial species are not allowed. Undersized BFT is to be released alive or landed and registered if dead when taken on-board. No catches of individual fishes below 30 kg have been recorded by Icelandic vessels, neither directed catches or bycatches. The BFT quota of Iceland will be adjusted if needed between bycatches and longline catch. This will be managed by the Directorate like all other commercial catches in Iceland. All adjustments will be reported to ICCAT.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board the BFT longliners for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessels need written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MFRI.

The longline fishing season will start on 1 August and end on 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quotas are fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is exhausted, or the vessels notify an end to fishing operations in 2021.

The list of authorized ports for 2021 has been updated and sent to ICCAT.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates in 2021 electronically.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	All Icelandic fishing vessels have Electronic Logbooks, all landings recorded in online database of the Directorate.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	Longline fishing season 1 August and closing when the quota has been fished or 31 December	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned, if dead to be landed and recorded.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	Discards of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial catches must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks. This also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Act concerning the Treatment of Commercial Marine Stocks 57/1996.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	No recreational or sports fisheries for eastern Atlantic BFT will be allowed in 2021.	Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	No transshipments are allowed.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
7	VMS (para 105)	All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis.	Icelandic Fisheries Act.	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the Directorate of Fisheries. Inspectors shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.	Regulation on BFT fisheries 2021.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	N.A. only longline fishing by 2 vessels		

<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>			
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2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

See attached.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

No farming – not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

BFT long line vessels need written permission from the Directorate of Fisheries to leave port for bluefin tuna fishing without an inspector onboard from the Directorate. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the Directorate are present at all landings of BFT.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are required to transmit on an hourly basis.

All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in electronic logbooks, this also applies to all bycatches of BFT by Icelandic vessels.

The vessels are required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Iceland only authorizes 2 longline vessels in the NE-Atlantic and is therefore not required to be part of an ICCAT International inspection plan. Not applicable.

5. Others, reserved quota for bycatches and actual bycatches from 2013 (tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Reserved quota for bycatches	2.97	3.36	2.57	5.71	7.48	4	7	10	10
Actual bycatches	3.80	7.366	10.46	2.747	0.42	0	0	0.839	

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity													
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m		70.7																												
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m		49.78																												
Purse seiners less than 24m		33.68																												
Total Purse Seine Fleet																														
Longliner over 40m		25						1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2							25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	
Longliner between 24 and 40m		5.68			2	1	1	1									11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68										
Longliner less than 24m		5																												
Total Longline Fleet					2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2															
Baitboat		19.8																												
Handline		5																												
Trawler		10	1																											
Trap		130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira																														
Other (please specify)		5																												
Total fleet/fishing capacity			1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	10.00	0.00	11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	
Quota																51.53	49.72	31.20	29.80	29.82	30.97	30.36	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	225.00	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																	0.72		78.80		28.00	27.00	34.00	38.00	45.00	80.00	140.00	170.00	215.00	
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																					2.00	2.00	2.00							
Under/overcapacity																41.53	-0.72	-19.84	73.12	24.14	20.32	0.00	-7.00	-13.00	-20.00	-55.00	-90.00	170.00	-165.00	

Adjusted quota 2021 = 215 (Quota (180) + Additional 25% (45) - Res. Bycatch (-10))

JAPAN

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Japan's initial quota for the 2021 fishing season (from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022) is 2,819 t. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 19-04, Japan requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2020 quota to 2021. The catch of E-BFT in 2020 was 2,781.63 t, which includes 8.16 t of dead discards. Thus, 2,839.27 t (2020 catch quota) minus 2,781.63 t equals 57.64 t, which is transferred to the 2021 quota. In addition, the reserved quota for dead discard (14 t) as well as bycatch quota for other fishery (1 t) are set aside. To conclude, the adjusted quota for 2021 in Capacity Table is 2,861.64 t accordingly (2,819 + 57.64 – 15 = 2,861.64).

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to establish a legally binding management system including individual quotas. The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) is an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, which enforces the Fisheries Law and the Ministerial Ordinance on Japanese fishermen.

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catches, type of product, individual BFT weights, tag numbers, and number of live releases and dead discards including those under the minimum size. The FAJ monitors the catch of individual vessels and sees if the total catch is within each vessel's quota.

Regarding bycatch, all Japanese catching vessels targeting fish other than BFT operate around the equator or further south: the possibility of bycatch of BFT is negligible. In fact, there was no bycatch reported in 2020. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t for bycatch for other fisheries for 2021 as a minimum figure.

Landings at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows BFT fishermen to land at ten domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the ten ports, 100% of landings of BFT by both fishing vessels and carrier vessels will be inspected by FAJ official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the information collected with the data previously reported, including daily reports.

All fishing vessels operate in almost the same period from the end of September to early December every year without entering ports during this period. Therefore, the observers are on board the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that temporal representation is secured. In addition, as the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off the coast of Iceland, there should be little concern about the spatial representation.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. (19-04))</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	The Minister requires fishing operators to communicate to the FAJ daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location, the weight and number of BFT caught in eastern Atlantic Ocean (including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum	Fisheries Law, Article 26. Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 14 and 26.	

		size) by the end of the next day. In addition, the Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.		
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from fishing for BFT in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching for BFT weighing less than 30kg. The fishing vessel shall stop operating and move from the fishing area when the number of BFTs which weigh 10 – 30 kg gets larger than 5% of the total number of BFTs caught on the day. The weight of dead discards of BFTs below minimum weight is counted against Japan's quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 23.	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing BFT. All Japanese catching vessels targeting other than BFT operate around the equator or further south, thus the possibility of bycatch of BFT is negligible. Given the circumstances, the Minister sets aside 1 t for bycatch for other fisheries as a minimum figure.	Fisheries Law, Article 19 and 25.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in the ICCAT area.	N/A	

6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59.	
7	VMS (para 105)	The Minister will require fishing vessels to be equipped with a VMS able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every two hours to the FAJ. The FAJ transmits the VMS data from the vessels fishing for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 25.	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	Subject to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, FAJ will ensure observer coverage on board of 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas.	N/A	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for BFT.	N/A	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45)</i>	N/A	N/A	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota, which is more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by SCRS (see Capacity Table). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 19-04, ensures that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

(i) Characteristic of Japanese E-BFT Fishery

The Northeast Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Iceland is the only E-BFT fishing ground for the Japanese fleet. In recent years, the fishing season has usually started at the end of September and lasted until early December. The E-BFT fishing area is remote from fishing areas of bigeye tuna, which is

another primary target fish for the Japanese fleet and caught around the equator. This means that LSTLVs targeting E-BFT are distinguishable from LSTLVs targeting other fish such as bigeye, by their position.

(ii) Monitoring the E-BFT fishery in accordance with Rec. 19-04 and other ICCAT measures

The FAJ constantly monitors LSTLVs' positions in the entire Atlantic Ocean through the VMS. The agency issues special licences to LSTLVs fishing actively for E-BFT and allocates quotas to those vessels. The FAJ ensures through the VMS that the LSTLVs without a license and quota do not operate in the E-BFT fishing ground. Also, the FAJ requires licensed vessels to transmit daily catch reports to the FAJ during the BFT fishing season. The FAJ closely monitors the accumulated catches to make sure that licensed vessels comply with their quotas.

The FAJ distributes official tags only to LSTLVs having E-BFT quotas. The Ministerial Ordinance requires Japanese fishermen to attach the tag to every BFT caught by them. Landings of any E-BFT without the tag are forbidden.

Reporting requirements regarding transshipment are also established by the Ministerial Ordinance. LSTLVs shall acquire authorization from the FAJ before transshipment at ports. The FAJ also receives transshipment declaration in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation. The FAJ examines such information and checks the consistency with the accumulated catch amount. Such information will be verified through landing inspections by the FAJ inspectors when the BFT is landed in Japan.

(iii) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ(1) - Very low capacity of Japanese LSTLVs

Moreover, the FAJ limits the number of catching vessels fishing for BFT well below the limit articulated by the Recommendation 19-04. This diminishes the economic incentive of the fishermen to violate regulations since the allocated quota will be enough for each catching vessel to make a profit through BFT fishing. The Capacity Table shows that Japan's E-BFT fleet has very low capacity (40 vessels in 2021), compared to the limit calculated in accordance with the Rec. 19-04 (2,861.64 t (quota)/25 t (per one LSTLVs over 40 m)=114.47 vessels).

(iv) Additional measure adopted by the FAJ(2) - 100% landing inspection by FAJ officials

The Ministerial Ordinance prohibits landing of BFT at any foreign port. All of the BFT caught by Japanese fishermen including those brought by carrier vessels must be landed in 10 designated ports in Japan. Those ports are the final destination of BFT caught by Japanese fishermen; this scheme enables the FAJ to conduct direct landing inspections against the landed E-BFT. In fact, the FAJ has been implementing 100% landing inspections against the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs since 2009. A range of information collected through the MCS measures mentioned above (e.g. weight and number of E-BFT, attachment of plastic tags) are utilized at the landing inspections.

(v) Cooperation with port State and importing State

Many of the E-BFT caught by Japanese LSTLVs are also subject to port inspection by coastal CPCs. When the LSTLVs exhaust their catch quotas, they usually make transshipments of E-BFT at other CPCs' ports, which may be subjected to inspections by the port State, in accordance with Recommendation 18-09. It is rare that a catching vessel carrying the E-BFT goes back to Japan after the end of the BFT fishing season because, in most cases, Japanese LSTLVs change their target fish to bigeye tuna (moving South) and continue their operation in the ICCAT area.

(vi) Risk analysis for illegal BFT fishing

In a hypothetical case that a Japanese LSTLV successfully poaches E-BFT despite the MCS measures described above, the vessel has to sell the fish somewhere in the world. The importing State, especially if an ICCAT member, shall require an eBCD to import the E-BFT. However, the FAJ will never validate an electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document (eBCD) for the export of fish to market States.

In another hypothetical case, if a Japanese LSVTL successfully poaches E-BFT and attempts to bring the fish to Japan, as it is prohibited to land illegally caught E-BFT, it can easily be identified by the landing inspections of the FAJ or business operators in Japan because an official tag is not attached to the fish and the fish is not accompanied by an eBCD. Furthermore, business operators are prohibited from buying such illegal fish by the Ministerial Ordinance.

(vii) Conclusion

To conclude, Japan fully implements MCS measures and capacity control as required by the relevant Recommendation of ICCAT. In addition, Japan adopts some additional and very effective MCS measures, including 100% landing inspection. Moreover, compliance of Japanese LSTLVs is further ensured through the assistance of and cooperation with port States and possible market States. Those combined measures are expected to eliminate any possibility of IUU fishing of E-BFT by Japanese vessels. Given the effectiveness of the combined measures, the FAJ is not going to dispatch its inspection vessel for BFT fishing.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Japan will not be part of an ICCAT International Inspection plan, due to its alternative measures described in the previous sub-paragraph.

5. Others

N/A

Capacity table

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>															<i>Fishing capacity</i>													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																												
Purse seiner between 24m and 40m	49.78																												
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																												
Purse seine total fleet																													
Longliner over 40m	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	40*	40*2	1225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	1000*	1000*2
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																												
Longliner less than 24m	5																												
Total longline fleet		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	40*	40*2	1225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	1000*	1000*2
Baitboat	19.8																												
Handline	5																												
Trawler	10																												
Trap	130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																												
Other (please specify)	5																												
Total fleet/fishing capacity		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	36	38	40*	40*2	1225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	900	950	1000*	1000*2
Quota																2430.5	1871.4	1148.1	1097	1097	1139.6	1139.6	1345.4	1608.2	1930.9	2279	2544	2819	2819
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																2430.5	1871.4	1148.1	1097	1097	1139.6	1139.6	1390.4	1583.2	1910.9	2279	2529	2,824.27	2,861.64*3
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																													
Under/overcapacity																-1205.5	-1046.4	-598.05	-547.03	-597.03	-589.55	-589.55	-690.44	-808.21	-1085.9	-1379	-1579	-1,824.27	-1,861.64

* One of the 40 vessels cancelled its operation for EBFT in the 2020 fishing season.

*2 The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, these figures will be revised and communicated to the Secretariat.

*3 2,819.00 t (2021 initial quota) +57.64 t (2020 carry over (Para 7 of Rec. 19-04))-15t (*4) =2,861.64 t

*4 Japan tentatively sets aside 14 t for dead discards by the BFT fishery and allocates 1 t for bycatch by the other fishery.

KOREA (REP.)

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Korea's bluefin tuna quota for 2021 will be 254.3 t (200 t of initial quota + 50 t of quota transfer from Chinese Taipei+4.3 t of unused quota carried forward from 2020) subject to the endorsement by Panel 2. Korea hereby requests the carry-over of its unused quota 4.3 t to 2021 in accordance with para 7 of Rec. 19-04.

* 2020 adjusted quota (251.567t) – 2020 final catch (247.267t) = unused quota (4.3t)

a) Quotas allocated to each gear group

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for bluefin tuna fishery. Therefore, 253.8 t out of 254.3 t will be allocated to longline gear group. Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for possible bycatch.

b) Method used to allocate and manage quotas, and measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas

Korea's bluefin tuna quota will be allocated to two to four longline vessels of certain fishing companies which have historical records of bluefin tuna fishing. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of Korea will decide the individual quota for each vessel in consultation with those companies. The details of quota allocation will be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activities in accordance with paragraph 50 of the Recommendation 19-04. Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch report) to MOF by the end of the next day following their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight, number and weight of discarded/released fish (discards will be counted against the quota) and etc. Transfer of quotas among vessels is allowed but vessel operators must seek approval of MOF first. Any over-catch beyond individual quota will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's distant water fisheries.

c) Open fishing seasons for each gear category

Longline is the only gear type that Korea uses for bluefin tuna fishery. Open fishing season for longline gear group will be from 1 September to 30 November 2021.

d) Rules on bycatch

The Korean government has instructed that Korean vessels that do not target bluefin tuna shall not retain bluefin tuna bycatches in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Recommendation 19-04. Korea has 3 sub-sectors in its longline fishery - eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery, tropical tuna fishery and southern bluefin tuna fishery. As the fishing grounds of tropical tuna fishery and southern bluefin tuna fishery are geographically very far from the fishing grounds of Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery, we believe there is almost "zero" possibility in practice that bycatch occurs. Nevertheless, Korea will set aside 0.5 ton of its quota for possible bycatch. The amount of any bycatch will be deducted from the quota of Korea and these data will be reported to ICCAT. Korea has never experienced any bycatch of bluefin tuna so far.

e) VMS, Transshipment, Observer and Tagging Program

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked by and report to the Secretariat as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every two hours. BFT fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with the prior authorization. MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for 2021 fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook as well as electronic logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Weekly and monthly catch reports will be submitted.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-33)	No more than four Korean longline vessels will catch BFT from 1 September 2021 to 30 November 2021 in the area delimited by west of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighting less than 30kg or with fork length less than 115cm. Fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against Korea's BFT quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
4	Bycatch (para38)	Bycatch is very unlikely and not allowed but it will be deducted from Korea's quota, if any. Korea will set aside 0.5t of quota for this purpose.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-47)	Not applicable. Korea does not have any recreational or sports fisheries.		
6	Transshipment (para 77- 82)	At-sea transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited. Transshipment of bluefin tuna shall take place in the designated ports only. In 2021 season, Korean vessels will use the port of Cape Town, Dakar or	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	

		Cape Verde among the designated ports.		
7	VMS (para 105)	Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS which shall be tracked by and report to the Secretariat as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every two hours.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 15	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	MOF will achieve more than 20% observer coverage for 2021 fishing season.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1,13-2, 21	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84 and 85)	Not applicable.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Since 2017, Korea has been conducting tagging program with archival tags (Mini-PAT) by scientific observers as part of cooperation for GBYP.		

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Korea will operate no more than 4 longline vessels in 2021 although the maximum number of longline vessels (over 40m) it may operate is 10 according to the best catch rate defined by SCRS and the corresponding capacity. Please refer to the detailed information in the last page of this paper.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not Applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97,99, 103 and 104)

i) para. 73

Masters of Korean longline vessels must provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the necessary information required by para. 73. Also, after each trip, they must submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to the FMC of Korea. Korean fishing vessels are required to report their catch to the FMC of Korea on a daily basis and transshipment/landing activities must be reported, too, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act. The FMC of Korea analyzes all the relevant information including VMS record and the MOF investigates any suspicious events identified by the FMC. Any infringements or non-compliances will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Distant Water Fisheries Development Act which governs Korea's distant water fisheries. At least 20% of landings will be inspected.

ii) para. 97

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

iii) para. 99

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

iv) para. 103 and 104

Not applicable (Korea is not a farming CPC).

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Korea does not have any plan to have an inspection vessel in the Convention area in 2021 for the purpose of Joint International Inspection but its fishing vessels will fully cooperate with the boarding and inspection activities.

5. Others

Since 2017, tagging experiments using satellite tags has been conducted on the Korean longline vessels by an observer to actively cooperate with the ICCAT GBYP tagging activities and biological studies. Related data is currently under analysis and will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat. Korea will continue the tagging research in 2021 in the same way as previous researches.

Tuna vessel fleet		Fishing capacity																									
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																										
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		1	1	1	1	1	1	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Longliner over 40m	25								2	4	3	3	4	4													
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																										
Longliner less than 24m	5																										
Total longline fleet									2	4	3	3	4	4													
Baitboat	19.8																										
Handline	5																										
Trawler	10																										
Trap	130																										
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5																										
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	3	3	4	4	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	50	100	75	75	100	100
Quota		132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.6	136.6	160	184	200	200	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.6	160	184	200	200
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	113.6	136.6	210	234	251.067	253.8 ¹	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	113.66	136.6	160	184	251.067	253.8
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																											
Under/ overcapacity															-98.58	-47.46	-43.85	-43.85	-46.85	-46.85	-0.08	-113.66	-81.46	-135	-159	-151.067	-153.8

¹ Korea will set aside 0.5 t of its quota for possible bycatch. So, 253.8 t out of 254.3 t will be allocated to longline gear group.

LIBYA

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

Libya is hereby submitting its Fishing, Farming, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan for Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna 2021.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT (Rec.19-04), the level of the 2021 quota for Libya was set at 2,255 tones.

1. Annual Fishing Plan Details for Catching Vessels and Traps (para 16-17)

In preparation for the 2021 bluefin tuna fishing season, Libya adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology indicated by ICCAT Recommendations. Based on this methodology, Libya has adopted a Fishing Plan which will allocate an individual quota to 15 purse-seiner vessels to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2021.

All Libyan fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna in 2021 shall be tuna purse-seiners.

The LIBYAN Administration (GENERAL AUTHORITY OF MARINE WEALTH) will issue fishing authorizations for these vessels for 2021 and will be reported to ICCAT in due course.

The management of fishing activity will be governed in accordance with the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendation establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 19-04), Law #14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya and Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #32/2021, amending #33/2019 adopting Rec. 19-04 and amending Decree No. 205/2013, to establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Rec.19-04 has allocated a Total Allowable Catch of 2,255 t to Libya for 2020 (Rec. 19-04, para. 5) for the current year (2021), 2,235 t shall be distributed to the 15 (fifteen) purse-seiners over 24m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2021 and 20 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets. The level of 20 t was established based on past records of bycatch for the last few years, which was much lower than the reserved figure (20 t), in addition to our statistics from the major fish markets in (Tripoli, Misurata) the total bycatch found to be 8,452 kg which is covered in the reserved figure mentioned above .

The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline (Rec.19-04, para 50), and any changes to these vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) between the authorized fishing vessels shall be allowed, Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) with vessels of other CPCs are not envisaged for 2021.

All dead fish are deducted from allocated quota.

Table 1. The table below summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT Recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04/18-02)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	Masters of vessels active in the BFT fisher shall maintain a bound logbook and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04. In accordance with Para 74 of Rec. 19-04 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT	Art. 22/ Decree #32/2021	

		catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.		
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	<p>Purse-seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May - 1 July)</p> <p>- By derogation purse-seiners fishing in FAO zones 37.3.1 and 37.3.2 shall be authorized to fish in the period 15 May - 1 July. This shall be applicable to a maximum of three vessels selling their catches to farms of CPCs in the abovementioned zones.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 19-04, Libya may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p> <p>Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Para 75 of Rec. 19-04.</p>	Art.12/ Decree #32/2021	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or less than 115cm fork length is prohibited as per para 34 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>Any incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg and shall be counted on Libyan quota.</p>	Art. 18/ Decree#32/2021	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>Libyan fishing vessels should, where possible release Bluefin tuna caught as bycatch.</p> <p>Otherwise the amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately.</p>	Art. 18/ Decree #32/2021	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Art. 6/ Decree #32/2021	
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	<p>Transshipment at sea is prohibited.</p> <p>BFT Fishing vessels shall only land BFT catches in ports designated by the Fishery Authority (Al-khoms, Tripoli, Misurata and Tobruk).</p>	Art. 19/ Decree#32/2021	

		All vessels entering any of these ports for landing shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities). All landings of BFT shall be inspected by Port and Fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report.		
7	VMS (para 105)	All fishing vessels active in BFT fishing shall be equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the Authorization period. Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every hour (1) and any interruption of transmission on will be acted upon immediately to investigate and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs vessel will be recalled to port.	Art. 21/ Decree #32/2021 (Transmission start 15 days before Authorization and continue 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS centres shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and authority.
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	National observers shall cover 100% activity of towing and auxiliary vessels (BFT - Other Vessels if any). No national observers on board of catching vessels. For research purposes local researchers may be appointed on board some of the catching vessels.	Art. 17,27,29/ Decree #32/2021	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Regional observers shall be placed on board all catching vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2021 on a full deployment (100%) basis.	Art. 17,27,29/ Decree #32/2021	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

In accordance with SCRS recommendations CPC-Libya has endeavoured to keep its fishing capacity at a low level. CPC-Libya shall, in terms of Para 22 of Rec. 19-04, adjust its fishing capacity in a manner commensurate with the 'best catch rates' indicated by SCRS and the allocated quota to the particular fishing gear (**Table 2**).

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

In terms of para 26 of Rec. 19-04 Libya has communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat three farms with a total capacity of 1,800 t; no activity however will take place in 2021 due to security situation.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

In accordance with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. #14/1989, Decree #33/2019, amended by #32/2021 and the Coast Guard and Port Security Act. #229/2005 as modified in 2019.

Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant port authorities, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- i) estimated time of arrival;
- ii) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
- iii) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

And Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

Fishing Inspectors from the Fishing Authority/Coast Guard shall be trained to this effect.

Given that the larger part of the quota is caught by the purse seine fleet on the high seas and transferred into cages of farms situated in the areas of competence of other CPCs only a minimal percentage can be inspected on arrival/landing in Libyan ports which will not allow for a reliable risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. However, CPC-Libya will seek cooperation with the farming CPCs receiving fish caught by Libyan catching vessels to obtain further statistics in this regard.

In case of landing in ports of other CPCs Masters of Libyan catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to CPC-Libya. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and shall certify the completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of Bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

In the case of landings in Libya by catching vessels of other CPCs. CPC-Libya shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

a.1) Measures to compliance with quotas

The Fishery Authority will set up a Control Unit on a 24 x 7 basis during the fishing season.

Operators and Masters of the authorized fishing vessels shall adhere to para. 63, 65 and 66 and Section A of Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04 as also para 86-93 (including Annex 4 and Annex 8) where transfers of live fish are concerned.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.

Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with ROPs on board fishing vessels.

All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.

All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.

Catching vessels shall be authorized to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

a.2) Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

Ministerial Decree (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) #33/2019, amended by decree #32/2021 adopting Rec. 19-04 and amending Decree No. 205/2013 to establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

Imposing Sanction

Any non-compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree #32/2021/Art. 20 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of

license, decrease or withdrawal of individual quota). This decree is in force in this year which will give more effective measures.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Libya would be prepared to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection with one vessel once the vessel is equipped with all the necessary requirements to qualify it as an inspection vessel.

5. Others

Libya Observers Program

In this year CPC-LIBYA is concentrating more on National & Regional observer program, the training program is already started in order to improve our fisheries management and observation in the Mediterranean Sea, however since Libya has no experience before in BFT observation it may seek for an assistance from ICCAT secretariat in order to accomplish its program.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	696	696	696	697	747	747	747
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		31	30	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	1527	1478	1045	896	846	696	696	696	696	697	747	747	747
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																										
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		35	32	23	20	18	18	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	1627	1528	1095	946	871	871	696	696	696	697	747	747	747
Quota															947	581	903	903	938	938	1107	1323	1588	1846	2060	2255	2255
Adjusted quota (if applicable)	Note: 20 t reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse seine fleets.														1092	726	903	903	938	938	1157	1373	1638	1797	2044	2235	2235
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)															0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity															535	802	192	43	-67	-67	-461	-677	-942	-1100	-1297	-1488	-1488

MOROCCO

Year of Fishing Plan: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

a) Introduction

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during the decision making process by correspondence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 national quota, which was fixed at 3,284 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, traps, purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna and small coastal vessels and artisanal boats that take bluefin tuna as bycatch.

In accordance with paragraph 7 of Recs. 19-04/20-07, Morocco requests a transfer of a volume of 34.91 t (1.06% of the quota) of its unused quota in 2020 to 2021. Therefore, the national adjusted quota will be 3318.91 t.

b) Details of Fishing plan

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 18 to 23 of Recs. 19-04/20-07, as amended and supplemented, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 18 traps
- 4 tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m, and
- Small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license for bycatch during its migration period, and their catches will be counted, as in the past, against the quota allocated to their segment. The fishing gears used by these small coastal vessels and artisanal boats are longline and line. The catches of these vessels are reported in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The total adjusted bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2021 fishing seasons is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2424 t
- Tuna purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m: 440 t
- Bluefin tuna bycatch reserved by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 434.91 t, calculated based on historical bycatch statistics. It should be noted that bycatch in 2020 was 365 t).
- A reserve is set aside for the case of potential dead discards of bluefin tuna: 20 t.

It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have specific fishing periods.

Five bluefin tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year in accordance with conditions and specific methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These five farming facilities are linked to authorised traps and vessels.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna management plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Morocco undertakes to implement all provisions of Recs. 19-04/20-07 as amended and supplemented during the 2021 fishing campaign which will start in April for the traps segment.

The fishing plan will ensure compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Recs. 19-04/20-07)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Communication and reporting of catches (para 63-68)	<p>Tuna purse seine vessels have a bound logbook.</p> <p>Catches of small coastal vessels and artisanal boats with a fishing license are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system.</p> <p>Trap catches are included in fishing logbooks as well as in the eBCD system.</p> <p>For the fifth consecutive year, implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD.</p> <p>Transmission of weekly and monthly bluefin tuna catches.</p> <p>Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/21 of 21 January 2021.	
2	Fishery openings (para 29-32)	<p>Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing will be carried out by four purse seiners that will operate either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The East Mediterranean within the framework of the joint fishing operation from 15 May to 1 July; or - The fishing areas of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea limited to the waters under Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction from 1 May to 15 June. <p>Bluefin tuna trap fishing is authorised from 1 April to 31 July.</p>	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/21 of 21 January 2021.	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm.</p> <p>A 5% maximum bycatch is authorised for bluefin tunas weighing between 8 and 30 kg or 75 cm to 115 cm.</p> <p>All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.</p>	Order of the Ministry of Fishing and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters as amended and supplemented by Order No. 4132-19 dated 26 December 2019. This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT	

			Convention area.	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>Vessels that take bluefin tuna as bycatch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 20% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens.</p> <p>Bycatch (20%) taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats, using longline and handline are calculated on an annual basis, and are counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.</p>	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/21 of 21 January 2021.	
5	Recreational and sport fisheries (para 39-45)	Currently sport and recreational fishing is not authorised.		
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	<p>Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.</p> <p>Transshipment is authorised only at the ports designated to this effect, in accordance with all the provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.</p>	<p>Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p> <p>Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing published in the Official Bulletin dated 17 May 2018.</p> <p>Decree No. 2.17.456 of 15 March 2018 for the compliance of certain provisions of Decree No. 1-73-255 dated 23 November 1973 forming the regulation on maritime fishing.</p>	

7	VMS (para 105)	<p>Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data of fishing vessels of 15 m or more registered in the ICCAT record start at least 5 days before the authorised period and continue 5 days after this period, unless the vessel is deregistered from the list of authorised vessels.</p> <p>The transmission of this VMS data is guaranteed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Every hour for purse seiners. -Every two hours for other vessels. 	<p>Decree No. 2.18.104 dated 2 rabbi II 1440 (10 December 2018) amending and supplementing Decree No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I 1431 (17 March 2010) establishing the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite communications to transmit data.</p> <p>Decree No. 574-19 of 29 jomada II 1440 (7 March 2019) on the fishing vessel positioning and ongoing tracking device.</p>	
8	CPC Observer programme (para 83)	<p>Presence of onboard observers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Towing vessel: 100% -Trap: harvest 100% 		
9	Regional Observer programme (para 84)	<p>Presence of onboard observers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100%. -Caging and harvesting in farms: 100%. -Tuna purse seiners: 100%. 		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging programme (para 45)</i>			

2. Annual Fishing Capacity Management Plan (para 18-23)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity are reported in the attached table.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 14d; 24), if applicable

Live tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year based on the specific conditions and methods that will be determined by the administration in accordance with the regulatory provisions in place and in accordance with the conditions laid down in ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 as amended and supplemented.

In addition, it should be signaled that pursuant to the provisions of Recs. 19-04/20-07 as amended and supplemented (para 14d; 24), carryover of caged live bluefin tuna is not authorised.

Morocco's farming capacity management plan for 2021 is as follows:

- Authorised farming facilities: 5 farms;
- These five farms are associated to traps and authorised vessels (as indicated in the first page).

Farm name	N° FFB ICCAT	Geographic coordinates	Wild input (t) *	Capacity (t)
BLUE FARM	AT001MAR00002	Point A: Lat: 35°18'07"N Long: 06°11'19"W Point B: Lat: 35°19'1,5"N Long: 06°11'19"W Point C: Lat: 35°19'1,5"N Long: 06°10'7,9"W Point D: Lat: 35°18'0,7"N Long: 06°10'7,9"W	2,884	3,000
LA LEVANTADA**	AT001MAR00003	Point A: Lat: 35°18'12,26" N Long: 06°09'31,61"W Point B: Lat : 35°18'12,26"N Long :06°08'18,45"W Point C: Lat: 35°17'16,56"N Long: 06°08'18,45"W Point D: Lat: 35°17'16,56"N Long: 06°09'31,61"W	0	1,000
PESBAK FISH**	AT001MAR00004	Point A: Lat: 35°17'48,09" N Long: 06°11'6,20W Point B: Lat: 35°17'48,09" N Long: 06°09'54,27"W Point C: Lat: 35°16'48,23" N Long: 06°09'54,27"W Point D: Lat: 35°16'48,23" N Long: 06°11'6,20"W	0	800
ATLANTIQUE TUNA FARM **	AT0001MAR00005	Point A: Lat : 34°24'36,16 "N Long: 06°38'24,22"W Point B: Lat : 34°24'36,16" N Long: 06°37'12,27"W Point C: Lat : 34°23'36"N Long: 06°38'24,22"W Point D: Lat: 34°23'36" N Long: 06°37'12,27"W	0	600

Farm 5**	TBD	Point A: Lat: 35°15'46,8 "N Long: 04°46'40,8"W Point B: Lat: 35°14'52,8" N Long: 04°44'27,6"W Point C: Lat: 35°14'9,6"N Long: 04°44'34,8"W Point D: Lat: 35°15'10,8" N Long: 04°46'48"W	0	600
Total			2,884	6,000

*Approximate and provisional estimation.

**The coordinates of these farms are provisional and susceptible to change.

- Total amount per farm carried over from previous year: 0

This farming capacity management plan may be revised and communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June at the latest, in compliance with the provisions of para 24, Rec. 19-04 as amended and supplemented.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national regulation and ICCAT Recommendations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishery activities in 2021.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Recs. 19-04/20-07. This methodology therefore includes measures related to the following actions:

- Maintain records for monitoring prior notifications to port entry transmitted by all catch, transformation and support vessels that carry onboard catches equivalent or superior to three fishes or a ton;
- Monitoring and control of fishing operations in traps, and harvested in traps and fattening farms, in particular through the presence of observers;
- Systematic monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and is an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;
- Monitoring and control of transfer operations and caging operations in farming facilities are supported in particular by the systematic presence of observers, video records of the transfer operations and caging and the use of stereoscopic camera systems in accordance with the conditions established in Recs. 19-04/20-07;
- Random control of at least 5% of total live bluefin tuna in the fattening cages of a fattening farm in the period from the end of the caging operations to the first caging operation of the following year. This control is carried out on the internal traceability system implemented by the fattening farm and also by transfer operation followed by a control camera for verification of the number of bluefin tuna transferred.
- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);
- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding catch, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);

- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities to which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

b) Joint International inspection Plan (plan 109-112)

The Kingdom of Morocco has four vessels that could operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel.

It should be noted that these four vessels will embark ICCAT observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

5. Others

Regarding research and in accordance with paragraph 28 of Recs. 19-04/20-07 as amended and supplemented, the Kingdom of Morocco intends to continue with its study on growth rate of fattened bluefin tuna in 2021, based on measures of stereoscopic cameras and size sampling both at caging and at the end of the fattening season.

Moreover, it is foreseen that this study on growth rate be supplemented by a pilot study based on acoustics and coordinated jointly by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and ICCAT GBYP project.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>													
Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet	4	5	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4
Longliner over 40m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	15	17	18	18
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify) Bycatch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total fleet/fishing capacity	19	22	14	12	10	12	12	13	14	14	17	19	22	22
Quota	2729	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2948	3284	3284
Adjusted quota (if applicable)	2729	2400	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2948	3488.62	3318.91
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under / overcapacity														

<i>Fishing capacity</i>															
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4	282.8	282.8
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	149.4	149.4	0	99,6	0	49.8	49.8	49.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	33.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet		220.1	253.8	70.7	170.3	70.7	120.5	120.5	120.5	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4	282.8	282.8
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	1950	2210	1690	1170	1170	1300	1300	1430	1560	1560	1950	2210	2340	2340
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify) Bycatch by small coastal vessels and artisanal boats and potential dead discards of bluefin tuna		*	80	30	35	143	160	171	156	170	281	309	359	420*	454.91*
Total fleet/fishing capacity		2170.1	2543	1790.7	1375.3	1383.7	1580.5	1591	1707	1871	1982	2400	2710	3042,8	3077.71
Quota		2729	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2948	3284	3284
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2729	2400	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2948	3488.62	3318.91
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under / overcapacity			-143.8	-183.7	-137	-160.6	-310	-321	-207	-78	-171	-178	-238	-445.82	-241.2

* This quantity corresponds to bluefin tuna bycatch taken by small coastal boats and artisanal boats (as indicated in page 1) (434.91 t) and a reserve for potential dead discards of bluefin tuna (20 t). This latter amount is deducted from the national quota. It should be noted that the gears used to catch bluefin tuna in Morocco have specific fishing periods.

NORWAY

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

According to Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 5, Norway has initially been allocated a quota of 300 t in 2021. Regarding Recommendation 19-04 Paragraph 7, Norway requests to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2020 quota to 2021. A total of 190 t of the Norwegian catch quota (300 t) was utilised in 2020, and 15 t (5% of 300 t) may, according to Paragraph 7, be transferred to 2021. The adjusted quota for 2021 in **Table 1** will be 315 t.

Norway has set aside a group quota of 254 t for purse seiners, and a group quota of 18 t for longliners. Norway will open up for a recreational fishery in 2021, and will set aside 6 t for this fishery. Furthermore, 4 t will be set aside for the purpose of tag and release. Norway will also allocate a quota of 15 t for bycatch, and 18 t for research activities.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Norway intends to authorise eight purse seiners and three longliners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2021. This is the same number of vessels which was authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2020. The vessels have not been selected yet, hence we do not yet know their size. In 2020 seven of the eight purse seiners had an overall length between 24 and 40 meters, and one purse seiner had an overall length over 40 meters. Norway will also authorise a number of vessels/teams for a tag and release fishery, and for a recreational fishery, however, it has not yet been decided how many vessels/teams that will be allowed to participate in this fishery. Further details are specified in Section 2 below. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 50, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorised to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan will be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 17.

The Norwegian purse seine and longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The vessels participating in the recreational fishery and in tag and release are required to communicate the same information as the purse seine and longline vessels, as well as to stay in close contact with the Institute of Marine Research. The tag and release fishery will only take place if the masters of the vessels can document that they are able to tag the bluefin tuna with spaghetti marks, and that they have received the necessary licences to do so.

15 t of the Norwegian quota are set aside for unintentional bycatch of bluefin tuna. This is ten tonnes less than in 2020 although the Norwegian quota in 2021 is at approximately the same levels as in 2020. Bycatch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatches. The highest level of bycatch of bluefin tuna registered in the Norwegian economic zone in the past years is 8.4 t in 2015. In comparison, the level of bycatch in 2019 was 0.73 t of bluefin tuna and 2 t in 2020. 15 t for bycatch should therefore be more than sufficient to cover bycatch in 2021.

If a vessel has not been allocated a quota, or if the allocated quota has been exhausted, the master of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of bycatch of live bluefin tuna. If such bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota.

All bycatch of bluefin tuna shall immediately be reported to the Norwegian FMC. The FMC will alert inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries who will initiate appropriate follow-up action.

The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard has access to the electronic logbooks in real time.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	<p>63. The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook.</p> <p>64. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.</p> <p>65. The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from their electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>66. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to the Norwegian FMC by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.</p> <p>67. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>68. Catching vessels other than purse seiners will be required to transmit to the Norwegian FMC by the latest Tuesday at noon for the preceding</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 13 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 13 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	<p>These regulations will be adopted when ICCAT has approved the Norwegian fishing, farming, inspection and capacity management plan.</p>

		week ending Sunday.		
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	<p>29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 15 November, in accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 29.</p> <p>30. If weather conditions prevent purse seine fishing operations during the authorised fishing period, Norway may, in accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 30, extend the fishing period for the affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days. Whether conditions which may lead to an extension of the fishing period shall correspond to wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale.</p> <p>31. Bluefin tuna fishing with longline catching vessels over 24 m is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 1 August to 31 December in accordance with Rec 19-04 paragraph 31.</p> <p>32. Norway intends to establish a fishing season for longliners under 24 meters in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 13 May to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>The fishing season for the recreational fishery will be from 13 May to 31 December 2021.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 3.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 4.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 4.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 5.</p>	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>34. The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>Nevertheless, for catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorised according to Rec. 19-04 paragraph 37.</p> <p>35. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and no</p>	<p>Regulations related to Sea Water Fisheries § 43 and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 2.</p>	

		<p>Norwegian vessels are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea or the Adriatic Sea.</p> <p>36. Not applicable. Reference is made to paragraph 35 above.</p>		
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>38. Norway has allocated a quota of 15 tonnes for bycatch of bluefin tuna in other fisheries. This is less than in 2020 although the Norwegian quota in 2021 is approximately at the same level as in 2020.</p> <p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna in Norwegian fishery is taking place in relation to non-ICCAT regulated fisheries, such as the mackerel and blue whiting fishery. Annual variations in these fisheries are reflected in the number of bycatches. 15 t is set aside for bycatch in 2021.</p> <p>All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna shall be landed and deducted from the Norwegian quota and reported on an annual basis to ICCAT.</p> <p>If no quota has been allocated to the fishing vessel concerned, or if the quota has already been exhausted, the catching vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure the release of live bluefin tuna. If the bluefin tuna is dead, it shall be landed and the appropriate follow-up action shall be taken in accordance with domestic law.</p> <p>For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule.</p>	Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 §§ 2 and 7.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	<p>39. Norway will be issuing fishing authorisations to a number of vessels/teams participating in a tag-release and recreational fishery. The number of vessels/teams has not yet been decided.</p> <p>40. The Norwegian legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by recreational and tag and release fishery, shall be landed. The Norwegian Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna contains measures which prohibit recreational and tag and release vessels to land more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.</p>	<p>Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 5.</p> <p>Regulations related to Sea Water Fisheries and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 11.</p>	

		<p>41. Norway has prohibited the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and tag and release fishery.</p> <p>42. Data, including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during recreational and tag and release fishery, will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat for the preceding year by 1 July each year.</p> <p>43. Dead catches from recreational and tag and release fishery will be counted against the Norwegian quota. 6 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover dead catches from a recreational fishery, and 4 t of the Norwegian quota is set aside to cover any bluefin tuna which might die during the tag and release fishery.</p> <p>44. Norway will take measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive in recreational fisheries if no quota has been allocated to the vessel or if the quota has been exhausted.</p> <p>45. Norway will open up for a tag and release fishery. Norway will follow the requirements in Rec 19-04 paragraph 45.</p> <p>Only vessels with a license issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery. The vessels must also be authorised by the competent authorities to perform the tagging process. The license to participate in the tag and release fishery, and the authorisation to perform the tagging process, will be withdrawn if the vessel does not comply with the terms of the license/authorisation.</p> <p>All vessels participating in the tag and release fishery will be closely monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.</p> <p>Norway will in 2022 submit a report on the scientific activities conducted in 2021. The report will be submitted at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting in 2022.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 11.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 2.</p>	
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		<p>Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities will be reported and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>46. Norway will, upon request from ICCAT, make available the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorisation.</p> <p>47. The list of sport and recreational vessels will include the information specified in Rec. 19-04 paragraph 47.</p>		
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	Not applicable. All transshipments of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone are prohibited.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 14.	
7	VMS (para 105)	<p>The purse seine and longline vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>VMS will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, every two hours for longline vessels, and every hour for purse seine vessels.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 5 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after its period of authorisation.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 13.</p> <p>Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (logbook requirements).</p>	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	<p>83. The longline vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will be required to have a national observer on board during 20% of the time the vessels are targeting bluefin tuna.</p> <p>The Norwegian fishing vessels will only be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone.</p> <p>The observer tasks will be carried out by inspectors from the Norwegian Surveillance Services, which are part of the Directorate of Fisheries.</p>	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 12.	

		<p>Collecting scientific data are among the main tasks of these inspectors, and they are trained to carry out scientific work as well as monitoring, control and surveillance activities.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will have an observer coverage of the authorised purse seine vessels of at least 5% measured in number of trips.</p> <p>Well in advance of the start of the fishing season, the longline and purse seine vessels will be required to submit a plan including information regarding the scheduled start-up date, area and period for the bluefin tuna fishery. Based on this plan, the Norwegian Surveillance Services and the Institute of Marine Research will organize their observer coverage ensuring representative temporal and spatial coverage to collect adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, in line with Rec. 19-04 and Rec. 16-14.</p> <p>The purse seiners and longliners will be required to keep close contact with the Norwegian Surveillance Services when fishing for bluefin tuna to ensure that the requirements relating to observer coverage are fulfilled.</p> <p>The vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour as well as daily reports from the electronic logbooks to the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The Surveillance Services have access to this information in real time.</p> <p>The Institute of Marine Research will provide the Norwegian Surveillance Services with relevant training and inform them of which sampling methods that must be used to collect biological data in accordance with Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>In addition, the longliners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, can be instructed to carry an observer from the Institute of Marine Research or to collect biological data.</p>		
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9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the Ministry of Fisheries has prohibited observers on board the purse seine vessels. The Surveillance Services and the Coast Guard will, to the extent possible, be monitoring the harvest of bluefin tuna from the purse seine to the fishing vessel. In addition to this the vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will, to the extent possible, carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels. A designated crew member on each purse seine vessel will also receive training from the ROP, in order to be able to fill out the weekly ROP reports, as well as a report in the end of the fishing season.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 12.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Fishing teams that are allowed to participate in the tag and release fishery must, before the fishery begins, document that they have been authorised to tag the bluefin tuna by the competent authorities.	Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2021 § 11.	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

According to Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2021 is 300 t. In addition to this Norway requests a transfer of 15 t from the 2020 quota, which will increase the Norwegian quota for 2021 to 315 t. In light of the increase of the Norwegian quota, the fishery in 2021 is planned to take place with eight purse seiners and three longliners.

The best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 are based on catches from the Mediterranean Sea. These catch rates do not reflect the catch rates in the feeding areas in Norwegian waters. When bluefin tunas are feeding in Norwegian waters, they are much less aggregated than when they are spawning in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to this, the weather along the Norwegian coast in September and October often prevents the fishermen from going out to fish for bluefin tuna. As requested from the Chair of Panel 2 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019, Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. Norway also presented this paper in the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2020. For further detail see SCRS/2020/017.

In accordance with Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 22 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 does not apply to Norway.

As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. Each purse seine vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum of 31,75 t within the group quota of 254 t and each longliner will be allocated an individual vessel quota up to maximum 6 t within the group quota of 18 t. 15 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental bycatches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna, 6 [18] t will be set aside for research, 1 [4] t will be set aside for tag and release fishery, and 6 t will be set aside for recreational fishery. Only vessels licenced for a tag and release fishery will be allowed to participate in the recreational fishery.

Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 17, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable. Norway does not have any bluefin tuna farms.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to taking the measures necessary to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the Ministry of Fisheries has prohibited observers on board the purse seine vessels. The Surveillance Services and the Coast Guard will, to the extent possible, be monitoring the harvest of bluefin tuna from the purse seine to the fishing vessel. In addition to this the vessels will be closely monitored by the FMC, and the Directorate of Fisheries will, to the extent possible, carry out landing inspections. The Institute of Marine Research will, if the situation allows it, have scientists on board several of the vessels. A designated crew member on each purse seine vessel will also receive training from the ROP, in order to be able to fill out the weekly ROP reports, as well as a report in the end of the fishing season.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as bycatch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 5% of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, i.e. the inspectors will monitor the entire landing. This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left on board once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

As the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be limited to eight purse seiners and three longliners, the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 111 does not apply.

Furthermore, the vessels authorised to target bluefin tuna and the vessels getting incidental bycatch of dead bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 paragraph 48, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 18-12 amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2021 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2021.

5. Others

Six [eighteen] tonnes of bluefin tuna are in 2021 allocated to a scientific pilot study aimed at possible future short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in cages in Norway, as well as at maintaining the high quality of the fish during and after purse seine catch operations. Norway presented the reasoning behind this research project in document PA2-605 at the annual Commission meeting in 2019.

Norway will report on the results from this study to the SCRS in 2021.

Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t) ¹ ...	2009	2010	2012	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2011	2012	2014	2017	2018	2020	2021			
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7						1	1	1	1							70.7	70.7	70.7			
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78				1	1	1	1	1	3	7	7			49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78	99.56	149.34	348.46	348.46
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																					
Purse seine total fleet					1	1	1	1	2	4	8	8			49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78	99.56	220.04	419.16	419.16
Longliner over 40m	25																					
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68				1		1	0							5.68		5.68	0	0	0		
Longliner less than 24m	5							4	3	3								20	15	15		
Total longline fleet					1		1	0	4	3		3			5.68		5.68	0	20	15	15	
Baitboat	19.8																					
Handline	5																					
Trawler	10																					
Trap	130																					
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																					
Other (please specify)	5																					
Total fleet/fishing capacity					1	2	1	2	2	8	11	11			49.78	55.46	49.78	55.46	99.56	240.04	434.16	434.16
Quota					30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	104	239	300	300			30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	104	239	300	300
Adjusted quota (if applicable)										300,95	282									212	300,95	282 ² ...
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)					0	0	0	0	0	1	6	10								1	6	10
Under/ overcapacity															18,81					29,04	139,21	162,16 ³ ...

¹ The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. Norway provided a paper to the SCRS in 2020 on catch rates for the Norwegian purse seine vessels fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone. The paper demonstrates that the catch rates in the Norwegian EEZ are a lot lower than the catch rates in the Mediterranean Sea. Norway also presented this paper in the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in 2020. For further detail, see (SCRS/2020/017).

² 15 t are set aside for bycatch, and 18 t are set aside for research in 2021. 15 t are transferred from the 2020 quota.

³ In accordance with Rec. 19-04 paragraph 22 b the adjustment of fishing capacity in paragraph 20 does not apply to Norway.

SYRIA

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps

- In accordance with the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission which was held in Palma de Mallorca (Spain), from 18-25 November 2019, and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2021, Syria has an annual quota of 80 tons of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch (Recs.19-04/20-07).
- The quota will be caught by one Syrian fishing vessel recorded in ICCAT list, 0.8 ton of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatch on the basis of 1% bycatch allocation (no bycatch recorded in previous year).
- Each year, the fisheries authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) announces terms and conditions for BFT fishing season based on ICCAT recommendations.
- A special fishing license shall be issued by the fisheries authority for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2021.
- The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
- The authorized period for fishing is from 15 May to 1 July 2021.
- Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
- No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.
- Longliner, baitboat, handboat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria for catching bluefin tuna.
- Fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiners shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishing in Syria is traditional in territorial water with no commercial fishing operations, and Bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fishermen.
- Fishing operations shall be monitored by fishery authorities, (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).
- ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of BFT catch at the time.
- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.
- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour. VMS data will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.
- Fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.
- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a daily catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish and total weight.
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan

- Only one Syrian fishing vessel recorded in ICCAT list of vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2021 to catch Syrian allocated quota, and whole quota shall be caught by one vessel taking into consideration that the fishing effort of that vessel is commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to Syria in 2021.

3. Annual farming management plan

- There is no facility for farming BFT in Syrian water yet.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer (100% coverage).
- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and ensuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations and record some scientific information.
- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports.
- In case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection

- One Syrian vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2021 to catch Syrian quota, and no Joint Scheme of International Inspection is applied.

	ICCAT Requirement (per 19-04)	Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)	Note
1.	Catch recording and reporting	<p>The master of catching vessel shall maintain a bound fishing logbook of his operation in accordance with ICCAT recommendations.</p> <p>The fishing operator shall by electronic or other means report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report). Syria will submit weekly and monthly catch report to ICCAT, as well as date of closing the fisheries.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
2.	Fisheries openings	<p>The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.</p> <p>The authorized period for fishing is from 15 May to 1 July 2021.</p> <p>Syria may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (from 15 May to 1 July 2021).	
3.	Minimum size	<p>Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm is prohibited.</p> <p>Fish below the minimum size that are discarded dead shall be counted against Syrian quota.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
4.	Bycatch	<p>0.8 ton of quota will be set aside for any possible bycatches.</p> <p>Previously no bycatch was recorded of BFT. And no bycatch of bluefin tuna recorded in 2020. Therefore,</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	

		<p>the basis of the 1% by catch allocation set aside.</p> <p>Calculating by catch in relation with the total catches on board (in weight of specimens) should not exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip.</p> <p>The amount of by catch for small scale coastal vessel fleet should be calculated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Any bycatch shall be reported to ICCAT.</p>		
5. Recreational and sports fisheries		No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.	Not applicable	
6. Transshipment		<p>Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. No transshipment operations reported in Syria.</p> <p>Syria will inform ICCAT of any transshipment operations.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
7. VMS		<p>The vessel must be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every one hour.</p> <p>Fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and will transmit the VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
8. CPC Observer programmes		<p>The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by controller observer (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) which will embark on board of tuna vessel.</p> <p>The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and ensuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.</p>	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing. Purse seine vessel will carry national observer during all operations (100% coverage).	
9. Regional observers programme		An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100% on purse seines vessels authorized to catch BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing.	
<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>		Not applicable		

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>														<i>Fishing capacity</i>														
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																												
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																												
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
Longliner over 40m	25																												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																												
Longliner less than 24m	5																												
Total longline fleet																													
Baitboat	19.8																												
Handline	5																												
Trawler	10																												
Trap	130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																												
Other (please specify)	5																												
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
Quota																0	0	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.4	56.91	66	73	80	80
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																										72	79.2*	79.2*	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/ overcapacity																0	0	0	0	-33.58	-33.58	-33.58	-5.97	-13.72	-23.23	-32.32	-38.32	-45.5	-45.5

Syria did not use its quotas of 2012, 2013 and 2014. * 0.8 t has been set aside for by catch.

TUNISIA

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

Tunisia hereby presents its fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT, Tunisia's quota for 2021 amounts to 2,655 t. Tunisia requests a carryover of 21.55 t from 2020 to 2021, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Rec. 19-04. If this request is approved, the total quota available for the 2021 fishing campaign will be 2,676.55 t.

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels (para 16-17)

In preparation for the 2021 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT. On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia established a fishing plan and will allocate individual quotas to 49 purse seiners to actively fish for bluefin tuna in 2021.

All Tunisian fishing vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna use purse seine nets i.e. tuna purse seiners.

The Tunisian administration will issue fishing authorisations for these vessels for 2021 and these will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

Management of fishing activity will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Recs. 19-04/20-07), and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended and/or supplemented, in particular by Laws No. 2013-34 and No. 2018-30 and their implementing texts, in particular, the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019).

Tunisia's total fishing quota, which is set at 2,676.55 t for 2021, will be distributed as follows:

- a. 2,650 t for tuna purse seiners. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be reported to ICCAT by the deadlines for submission set out in paragraph 50 of Rec. 19-04.
- b. 26.55 t for bycatch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 38 of Rec. 19-04.

Table 1 below summarizes the actions taken to implement the requirements of the ICCAT recommendation.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	Catch recording and reporting will comply with the provisions of Rec. 19-04 (para 63-68). Catching vessel masters will maintain all the onboard documents required including a bound logbook or in electronic format in which the operations performed will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 19-04 (Annex 2).	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	The purse seine fishing season is from 26 May to 1 July 2021. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Rec. 18-02 and Rec. 19-04, Tunisia may possibly extend its fishing period for affected vessels for the equivalent number of lost days up to a maximum of ten days	Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing. Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by Decision of 10 June 2013 and the	

		in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorised fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension will be based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s on which the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs evidence of concurrent inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.	Decision of 28 May 2019.	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>It is prohibited to catch bluefin tuna with a unit weight less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm calculated from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail.</p> <p>However, exceptionally, bycatch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm may be authorised.</p> <p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted from Tunisia's quota.</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>Bycatch was 5 t in 2020, 3.6 t in 2019 and 10 t in 2018.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure, 26.55 t (equivalent to 1% of Tunisia's quota) will be set aside for bycatch.</p> <p>If bycatch exceeds the 20% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the total level of bycatch is surpassed, these are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.</p>	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery as amended by the Decision of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	Sports and recreational fishing will not be authorised.		
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels can only tranship bluefin tuna catches in the ports registered with ICCAT with prior authorisation in accordance with Rec. 19-04 (paragraph 77, 78 and 80).	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision</p>	

			of 10 June 2013 and the Decision of 28 May 2019.	
7.	VMS (para 105)	<p>All vessels participating in the bluefin tuna campaign with a length of more than 15 m are equipped with a VMS system, in accordance with Recommendation 19-04 (para 105) and current domestic legislation.</p> <p>Transmission of positions of catching, towing and support vessels starts 5 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until 5 days after the end of the authorisation. The positions will be communicated instantaneously to the ICCAT Secretariat every hour by the purse seiners in accordance with Recommendation 18-10.</p>	<p>Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as supplemented by Law 2013-34 of 21 September 2013 and Law 2018-30 of 23 May 2018.</p> <p>Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015 establishing the type of instruments for gathering instantaneous information on the positions of vessels fishing at sea and the type of vessels that must be equipped with them.</p>	
8	CPC observer programmes (para 83)	The Tunisian administration will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents on board all towing vessels i.e. 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-02/19-04 (§ 83).	<p>Law No 94-13 of 31 January 1994, on fishing.</p> <p>Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 21 May 2008 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery, as amended by the Decision of 28 May 2019.</p>	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	The Tunisian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all transfers from one farming facility to another, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities, throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities and during release of bluefin tuna from farming cages in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 19-04 (para 84).		
10	<i>Other requirements, such as: Scientific programme</i>	Tunisia has implemented an onboard scientific observer programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna. In addition, a periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in fattening farms.		

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Tunisia's adjusted quota for 2021 will be 2,676.55 t. As Tunisia allocates 26.55 t for bycatches, the total quota available for this fishery (for purse seiners only) will be 2,650 t. As total fishing capacity is 2,165.52 t, Tunisia has an undercapacity of 484.48 t (see **Table 2**).

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), if appropriate

In accordance with paragraphs 24 to 27 of Rec. 19-04, the input volume for 2021 of bluefin tuna will be adjusted to 2655 t, i.e. proportional to the quota allocated to Tunisia for 2021.

Seven (7) farms envisage engaging in operations in 2021 (**Table 3**). Any potential modification to the farming plan will be notified to ICCAT within the required timeframe.

It is authorised to carryover live unharvested bluefin tunas that have been caught during the preceding fishing season(s). The live bluefin tunas carried over will be placed into separate cages from the new catches of the 2021 season.

In accordance with Rec. 19-04 (para 8), in addition to the control and inspection provisions set out in paragraphs 54, 103 and 104, additional control measures will be implemented (see paragraph 4).

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) Monitoring, control and inspection by CPC (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

In accordance with the domestic legislation in force, at-sea inspections in the fishing areas during the campaign will be carried out by agents authorised to police the fisheries from different corps that operate at sea. They are responsible for monitoring and assessment of compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Requests for entry and use of Tunisian ports by foreign-flagged vessels will be reviewed and granted, if appropriate, by the relevant port and maritime authorities.

In case of authorisation for port entry and use, in-port inspections will be carried out by government officials of the relevant authority.

All landings and harvesting operations will be controlled by government officials of the relevant authority.

In addition, control measures are provided for in Rec. 19-04 (paras 83 and 84) for regional and national observers programmes which ensure coverage of:

- 100% of purse seiners authorised to actively fish for bluefin tuna,
- 100% of authorised towing vessels,
- 100% of bluefin tuna transfer operations from purse seiners, from caging on farms, from one farm to another,
- 100% of harvesting operations.

All monitoring, control and surveillance operations will be ensured in accordance with Rec. 19-04 and Rec. 19-04 (para 97 and 99).

In accordance with Rec. 19-04 (para 103), random control operations using conventional cameras will be carried out in active farms by government officials of the relevant authority between the end of caging and the first caging of the following year. These control operations will be carried out for at least 10% of fish in farming cages.

A systematic in-depth assessment using stereoscopic cameras will be carried out of all the live bluefin tuna carried over to farms, after batch harvesting and prior to first caging in 2021.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection (para 109-112)

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 19-04, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Onboard inspectors will ensure implementation of inspection and boarding activities for all authorised Tunisian and foreign vessels. The operations period will last for 2 months (15 May – 15 July 2021) and concerns in particular bluefin tuna fishing, towing and caging activities, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law of the sea.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents;
- Catch and transfer activities into towing and farming cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential infringements of the conservation and management measures of Rec. 18-02/19-04.

5. Others

– Designated ports

12 ports have been designated in accordance with the ICCAT recommendation. The list of ports is published on the ICCAT web site.

– Scientific programme

A periodic sampling and scientific monitoring programme is implemented in Tunisian fattening farms. The main data collected concern demographic structures and size weight relations.

In addition, an onboard scientific observers programme, covering more than 10% of purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna is in place. This programme aims to collect fishery data (place, catch, composition...) and bycatch (cetaceans, turtles, sea birds, sharks...).

It should be noted that Tunisia also participates in the GBYP programme (tagging, species biology...) and provision of scientific data to the SCRS. These programmes are implemented by the National Institute of Sea Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) in cooperation with the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) and the profession.

Table 2.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity														
	Best catch rates defined by the SCS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Purse seiner over 40 m	70,7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,7	70.7	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	24	29	31	32	32	1194.72	1194.72	1194.7	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	1443.62	1543.18	1592.96	1592.96	
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	8	13	17	17	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	101.04	101.04	269.44	437.84	572.56	572.56	
Purse seine total fleet		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	27	37	44	49	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total longline fleet		1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	27	37	44	49	49	1809.3	1809.3	1809.3	1080.5	1029.3	1029.3	1029.3	1228.4	1295.76	1295.76	1713.06	1981.020	2165.520	2165.520	
Vessels quota																2254.48	1735.87	1064.9	1017.6	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97	1462.17	1755.18	2093.85	2376.00	2628.45		
Bycatch																								29.83	35.82	21.15	24	26.55	26.55	
Total quota																								1492	1791	2115.00	2400.00	2655.00	2676.55	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																2364.48	1937.87	1109.5	860.18	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97	1462.17	1755.18	2093.85	2376.00	2675.40	2650.00	
Under/overcapacity																-445.18	73.43	744.4	62.98	11.72	-27.72	-27.72	-19.57	-166.41	-459.42	-380.79	-394.980	-462.930	-484.48	

* Total quota (2676.55 t) = initial quota (2655 t) + unused quota from 2020 (21.55t), of which 26.55 t are set aside for bycatch and 2650 t remain available for vessels.

Table 3.

<i>Farm name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Management establishment</i>	<i>Farm coordinates</i>	<i>Wild input (t)</i>	<i>Farming capacity (t)</i>
VMT	AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi sallem	36°00'18"N - 10°34' 36" E	400	750
			36°00'18"N - 10°34' 55" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 0" E		
			36°00'15"N - 10°34' 37" E		
TT	AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	35°25'0"N - 11°04' 40" E	500	1000
			35°25'00"N - 11°05' 04" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°04' 40" E		
			35°24'38"N - 11°05' 04" E		
SMT	AT001TUN00003	SMT Etat	35°19'00"N - 11°09' 10" E	500	1000
			35°19'00"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°09' 10" E		
			35°18'42"N - 11°08' 45" E		
TFT	AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	36°01'49"N - 10°34' 0 " E	400	750
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 0 " E		
			36°01'49"N - 10°34' 37' E		
			36°01'38"N - 10°34' 37" E		
SNB	AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 26" E	300	500
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 10" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 26" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 10" E		
THC	AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji et mohamed Chiha	35°18'10"N - 11°08' 56" E	300	500
			35°18'10"N - 11°08' 40" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 56" E		
			35°17'53"N - 11°08' 40" E		
Farm 7	To be determined.	To be determined.		255	500
TOTAL				2655	5000

TURKEY

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Turkey will implement a total of 2,305 t catch limit for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2021 (as allocated for Turkey for the year 2020).

The rules established by ICCAT Rec. 19-04, have been transposed into Turkish domestic law by “Ministerial Communiqué Regarding E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Notifications and Ministerial Communiqué Regarding E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.

MoAF shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2021. All fishing vessels authorized by MoAF shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

The authorized BFT fishing season will be implemented from 15 May to 1 July in accordance with Para 29 of Rec. 19-04.

Fishing permits issued by MoAF shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2021 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline of April 30, and, with a view to fulfil the relevant capacity adjustment provisions of Rec. 19-04 and taking into account domestic process applied by the Ministry, fishing permits are expected to be granted to maximum 33 purse seiners as BFT catching vessels for 2021 BFT fishing season. Similarly, 70 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF.

MoAF plans to allocate total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carry-over of unused quota is not authorized.

Taking into account the historical BFT catch records, it is decided to allocate a specific quota level as 43 t for artisanal, coastal, recreational and sport fisheries. Considering that the amount of BFT bycatches in other fisheries has been 4.829 Kgs. in 2020, a 5 t specific quota is allocated for bycatch for 2021.

All by-catches shall be deducted from Turkey’s total quota dedicated.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	<p>Shall be implemented in parallel with para. 63-68 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>Both bound logbook and electronic logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data</p>	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-33)	<p>Fishing for E-BFT by purse-seiner is allowed for the period between 15 May - 1 July 2019 in parallel with para 29 of Rec. 19-04.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 30 of Recommendation 19-04, Turkey may possibly extend its fishing period for the affected vessels, for the equivalent number of lost days, up to a maximum of ten days in the event of bad weather conditions during the authorized fishing period. The fishing period will be extended in the case of wind speeds reaching 4 or more on the Beaufort scale. Assessment of the length of the bad weather conditions for the purpose of the extension is based on VMS reports evidencing the day/s that the vessel/s have been inactive; in the case of JFOs concerned, evidence of inactivity of all the vessels members of the JFO is to be proven.</p>	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>Necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transhipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm shall be taken.</p> <p>Bycatch of bluefin tuna under the tolerated size and weight or over the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded at sea and deducted</p>	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	

		from Turkey's quota.		
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>A 5t specific quota is allocated for bycatch for 2021.</p> <p>The level of bycatch shall not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip.</p> <p>Whether it is retained or not all bycatches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-47)	<p>Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited.</p> <p>The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.</p> <p>Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Turkey's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Amateur & Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
6	Transshipment (para 77 -82)	<p>Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited. E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purposes.</p> <p>In case of dead E-BFT derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.</p> <p>The designated ports shall be open for 24 hours and shall be ready upon request of landing from the BFT fishing vessel, prior to at least 2 hours of estimated time of arrival.</p> <p>The landing ports will be duly inspected by Ministerial inspectors on daily basis and upon any request of landing. The following ports have been designated by MoAF for the purpose of E-BFT</p>	<p>Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	

		<p>landing/transshipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adana Province: Karatas fishing port 2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port 3. Mersin Province: Erdemli fishing port 4. Hatay Province: Iskenderun fishing port 5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port Gulpınar fishing port 6. Istanbul Province: Gurpinar fishing port Tuzla fishing port 7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port 		
7	VMS (para 105)	<p>Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2021 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoAF.</p> <p>The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT shall be started at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall be continued at least 5 days after their period of authorisation. Position reporting in every one hour shall be required from the authorized fishing vessels.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	<p>Presence of “CPC Observers” on E-BFT Towing Vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2021.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84 and 85)	<p>100% Coverage of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations) is mandatory.</p>	<p>Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading</p>	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	<p>Usage of stereoscopic cameras in the farms shall be provided.</p>	<p>Ministerial notification regulating</p>	

			commercial fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading	
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2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Fishing permits are planned to be granted a maximum of 33 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoAF. Similarly, 70 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoAF. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to the authorised E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until 30 April deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2021 E-BFT fishing season).

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

With reference to Parag. 8 and 24 to 27, annual farming management plan for the year 2021 has been provided below:

<i>Farming Capacity for the year 2021</i>					
<i>Country</i>	<i>FFB*</i>	<i>Active/ Inactive</i>	<i>Capacity (t)*</i>	<i>Input Capacity(t)*</i>	<i>FFB Coordinates</i>
Turkey	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	292,664	38 29 16,73 N, 26 23 23,12 E 38 29 22,41 N, 26 23 23,08 E 38 29 22,37 N, 26 23 15,88 E 38 29 16,69 N, 26 23 15,90 E
Turkey	Akua Group Orkinos Besiciligi Projesi	Active	800	292,664	38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 18,00 E 38 27 12,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E 38 27 24,00 N, 26 27 09,00 E
Turkey	BASARANLAR ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	900	329,247	38 10 42,97 N, 26 42 18,41 E 38 10 48,53 N, 26 42 24,72 E 38 10 45,27 N, 26 42 29,32 E 38 10 39,72 N, 26 42 23,02 E
Turkey	KILIÇ Orkinos Besiciliği Projesi	Active	1840	673,126	38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E 38 24 40,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 20,00 E 38 24 34,00 N, 26 23 14,00 E
Turkey	Sagun Orkinoz Besiciliği Projesi	Active	1000	365,829	38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E 38 24 59,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 52,00 E 38 24 46,00 N, 26 24 44,00 E
Turkey	AK-TUNA ORKINOS BESICILIGI PROJESI	Active	1000	365,829	38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 10,00 E 38 23 23,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E 38 23 29,00 N, 26 26 31,00 E
Turkey		Inactive	500 ⁽¹⁾		
TOTAL			6,840	2,319.36	

* In case of any changes, final version of farming capacity plan shall be reported by 1 June.

(1) The total farm capacity of Turkey pertinent to the reference period is 6,840 metric tons. Without any prejudice to the right of utilization at any time, the farm capacity of 500 metric tons shown in the table above that belongs to Turkey will not be used for the year 2021.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT fishing activities

All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System. The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) operated by the Ministry will be supported by additional staff to further strengthen the monitoring during the whole fishing campaign.

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoAF during 2021 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- will be commissioned by MoAF to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoAF inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoAF shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landing of dead E-BFT.

Artisanal, coastal fisheries, recreational and sportive fisheries shall be inspected in scope of the same inspection programme by MoAF inspectors in collaboration with TCGC inspectors.

Monitoring, control and inspection of E-BFT caging operations

MoAF inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

In accordance with Para 97 of Rec. 19-04 the transfers from cages to farm shall be monitored by stereoscopic cameras as well as conventional cameras and the records of each transfer shall be provided to MoAF.

Covering 100% of all caging operations; stereoscopic cameras shall be used to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged, in accordance with Para 99 of Rec. 19-04. Farm operator shall communicate the results of this programme to MoAF and to the Regional Observer. Those results shall also be communicated to the catching CPC by MOAF.

In accordance with the related provisions of Rec. 19-04; farm authorities shall be allowed to carry-over of non-harvested bluefin tuna during 1-30 April of each year; through internal transfers of non-harvested live bluefin tunas to another empty cage by using stereoscopic cameras, with the presence of Ministerial inspectors. The carry-over shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Farm authorities shall be instructed to conduct random "control transfers" for an amount corresponding to 10% of total E-BFT caged in one cage/cages in their farms; through transferring to another empty cage, between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. These control transfers shall be video-recorded and record/records shall be provided to MoAF in order to communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Turkey plans to continue its longstanding voluntary contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2021, as well. In this respect, Turkish Coast Guard Command schedules to designate 61 inspection boats, 17 air control assets (helicopters / planes) and 349 inspectors on the field during the 2021 bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing campaign. Additionally, Turkish Naval Forces Command intends to join the inspection scheme of 2021 through assigning a 54 inspection vessels and 155 inspectors in the field during the 2021 BFT fishing campaign (the inspection vessels and inspector numbers given for Turkish Naval Forces Command are based on those for 2020 and provisional. The exact numbers will be submitted in the case of any change).

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focused on 2021. In this context, bluefin tuna (E-BFT) fishing and transferring activities, as well as, Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of MoAF and at Coast Guard Main Operation Centre in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centres of TCGC.

TCGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of E-BFT Fishing Season.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2020's risk assessment data.

5. Others

Turkey is one of the Contracting Parties who financially contributes and supports ICCAT GBYP programme.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity													
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	16	15	16	11	20	29	2899	2262	848	919	0	212	0	1131	1131	1061	1131	777	1414	2050.3
Purse seiner between 24m and 40m	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	3	14	6	18	7	4	2439	1693	548	199	548	348	647	0	149	697	299	896	348	199.12
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		93	66	23	17	11	10	13	16	19	29	22	29	27	33	5439	3955	1396	1118	548	560	647	1131	1280	1758	1430	1673	1762	2249.42
Longliner over 40m	25																												
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																												
Longliner less than 24m	5																												
Total longline fleet																													
Baitboat	19.8																												
Handline	5																												
Trawler	10																												
Trap	130																												
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																												
Other (please specify)	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*													48	43(**)
Total fleet/fishing capacity		93	66	23	17	11	10	13	16	19	29	22	29	27	33	5439	3955	1396	1118	548	560	647	1131	1280	1758	1430	1861	1810	2292.42
Quota																887	683	419	536	536	554	557	1223	1462	1775	1414	1880	2305	2305(***)
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																												2300	2300
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																													
Under/ overcapacity																4552	3272	978	582	12	3.9	90	-92	-136	-17.6	-16	19	-495	-7.58

* Numbers of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will be added up by April 30.

** Allocated for the purposes of artisanal and coastal, recreational and sport fisheries.

*** 5 t of which has been set aside for bycatch.

UNITED KINGDOM

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the UK and the EU, a split of the previous EU share of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (EBFT) has been agreed, resulting in i) a UK share equal to 0.25% of the old EU share or 0.14% of the global TAC, and ii) a commensurate reduction in the EU share. This agreement will not affect the current allocations to any other CPC or otherwise impact the global TAC.

For 2021, it is anticipated that the EU will transfer quota to the UK commensurate with the agreement reached (provisionally, 48.65 t), and that ICCAT will be notified of this transfer as soon as possible. Pending confirmation of this transfer, the tonnages allocated to the activities set out in our plan are currently included in 'square brackets'. The UK understands the need to formalise these changes to shares in line with ICCAT procedures at the annual Commission meeting.

As the UK's first EBFT Fishing Plan, the UK wants to take a cautious and measured approach to managing bluefin tuna in UK waters. Our plan sets out our approach to managing bycatch and our intention to run a tag and release programme. The UK will not authorise any commercial vessels to target BFT in 2021. Our management approach will be kept under close review during the course of the year. Any refinements to that approach that require adjustments to our Fishing Plan will be notified to ICCAT in line with Paragraph 19 of Recommendation 19-04.

Bycatch coverage

Bluefin tuna is becoming increasingly prevalent in UK waters, which is increasing the potential for interactions between the UK fishing fleet and EBFT. Prior to 2021 UK vessels which caught EBFT were required to release the fish alive, with dead catches reported to the relevant authorities and the catch surrendered for scientific sampling. In 2021, the UK will reserve a proportion of quota ([20] tonnes) to account for accidental bycatch in commercial fisheries targeting other species. Whilst data we hold indicate only minimal quantities of bycaught EBFT being landed (for example 3 tonnes in 2016, 0 tonnes in 2020), given the evidence suggesting the increasing presence of the stock in UK waters, the UK is allocating what it considers a sufficient tonnage to ensure we can properly account for all EBFT bycatch. We will keep this under close review as the year progresses and consider whether further quota should be used to cover bycatch.

To avoid incentivising the targeting of the species, commercial UK vessels will be permitted to land, and sell, a maximum of one bycaught fish per trip. This is in order to ensure they do not exceed the 20% maximum set out in paragraph 38 of recommendation 19-04. Any further EBFT caught will be required to be released alive if possible. If dead, the fish will be required to be retained and will be sent for scientific sampling but cannot be offered for sale.

If UK quota is exhausted, all vessels will be required to release live EBFT. Vessels will still be required to retain dead EBFT, which again will be sent for scientific sampling but cannot be offered for sale.

All bycaught EBFT will be subject to the requirements of the ICCAT bluefin tuna catch document programme (BCD).

Designated ports

As the UK did not previously allow the landing and onward sale of any bluefin tuna, prior to 2021 the UK did not have any designated ports for landing the species. As such the UK is ensuring ports have capacity to comply with ICCAT recommendations prior to designation. We anticipate the designation process being complete shortly and will provide a list of designated ports as soon as possible.

Catch and Release Tag Programmes

A 'Catch And Release Tag' (CHART) programme for EBFT in UK waters is provisionally planned for 2021 and will be carried out in accordance with paragraph 45 of Recommendation 19-04. A small number of recreational fishing vessels will participate in the programme. Skippers will have to successfully apply and undergo the necessary training to participate. [10] tonnes of the UK EBFT quota will be used to account for any at-boat incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme. This is considered suitably precautionary and more than sufficient to cover the envisaged activity. The figure was established taking into consideration envisaged programme duration and number of vessels alongside our estimates of average days fished per month, Catch Per Unit Effort, weight, and at-vessel mortality. The quota will not be allocated on a vessel-by-vessel basis but will instead cover the whole CHART programme.

Vessels operating within the programme will be licenced or authorised by the relevant UK Fisheries Administration and will carry out fishing under strict monitoring and reporting conditions. Observer coverage of the CHART programme will be at least 5% of all fishing trips and all capture events will be subject to camera monitoring. Mechanisms will be in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme in the face of incidental mortalities to ensure that the allocated quota is not exceeded.

Any incidental mortalities will not be offered for sale and will instead be used to support Atlantic bluefin tuna research. Data from the CHART programme will be reported to the scientific coordinator of the programme within 24 hours so that catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real-time.

The fishing season for the CHART programme is envisaged to be mid-July to mid-December 2021.

Any additional fishing activities will be reflected in expedient amendments to the plan in line with ICCAT requirements.

Electronic tagging programmes

The UK also expects to continue its electronic tagging programmes supporting GBYP (Grand bluefin year Programme) with mortality covered by the Research Mortality Allowance rather than national quota.

	ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)	Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)	Note:
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	<p>Commercial bycatch</p> <p>63. UK vessels will be required to submit information in accordance with the requirements set out in ANNEX 2. UK vessels will utilise electronic reporting systems to do so. Any vessel which catches an EBFT will be required to alert the relevant authority 4 hours prior to arrival into port (where fishing ground distance is more than 4 hours away).</p> <p>64. Not relevant for the UK.</p> <p>65. Not relevant for the UK.</p> <p>66. Whilst the UK does have purse seine vessels, none target EBFT.</p> <p>67. Not relevant for the UK.</p>	Retained Regulations 1224/2009, 404/2011 and 2016/1627	Electronic means of data capture in real time will be investigated.

		<p>68. Daily reporting will be required by CHART skippers as outlined below.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme As a minimum, the CHART programme will require licensed/authorised skippers to record specified fishing and capture data on datasheets and for copies of these sheets to be sent electronically to the programme coordinator within 24 hours of recording. Data will include (among other things) date, time, location of effort and capture, number of bluefin tuna caught and tagged, their lengths and estimates of weight, along with any incidental mortalities.</p>		
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	<p>Commercial bycatch No active fishing season for UK vessels has been defined as no vessels are permitted to target the stock.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme The CHART programme is envisaged to be open for recreational fishing between mid-July and mid-December 2021.</p>		
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	<p>Commercial bycatch UK commercial vessels will be required to release any accidentally-caught undersized live EBFT (i.e. those below 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm).</p> <p>Dead EBFT of any size must be retained but undersized fish will not be allowed to be marketed. All retained EBFT will be deducted from UK quota and reported to ICCAT.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme As no EBFT will be boarded or landed as part of the CHART programme, no minimum sizes will be required.</p>	<p>Retained Regulation 2016/1627</p> <p>Landing obligation regulation 2013/1380 article 15</p>	
4	Bycatch (para 38)	<p>Commercial fisheries for other species, and CHART programme All UK landings of EBFT will be deducted from UK quota.</p>	S.23 of Fisheries Act 2020	

		<p>A proportion ([20] tonnes) of UK quota will be set aside to account for accidental bycatch by commercial vessels targeting other species.</p> <p>Calculations of bycatch will be based on the proportion of EBFT as compared to live weight of all other species on board.</p> <p>Any bycaught EBFT will be subject to BCD requirements.</p> <p>Commercial vessels will be permitted to sell a maximum of one EBFT per trip.</p> <p>If more than one fish is caught, additional fish will be released if alive. If dead the fish will be retained but will not be allowed to be sold. All retained fish will count towards against UK quota.</p> <p>If UK quota is exhausted, vessels will still be required to retain dead EBFT but they will be sent for sampling and not sold.</p> <p>All catch data will be provided to ICCAT.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme A proportion ([10] tonnes) will be allocated to account for incidental mortality in the CHART programme.</p>		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)	<p>Non-tagging related recreational and sports fishing There are no plans to allow recreational fishing of EBFT outside of the tagging programme in 2021. Enforcement of this will be conducted by relevant authorities within the different fisheries administrations of the UK.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme A 'Catch and Release Tag' (CHART) programme for EBFT in UK waters is provisionally planned for 2021 and will be carried out in accordance with paragraph 45 of recommendation 19-04.</p>	<p>Skippers of vessels participating in the programme will be licenced or authorised by the relevant UK Fisheries Administration. Licences/authorisations will be applied for from April 2021, so vessel names cannot currently be specified.</p>	

		A maximum of [30] ¹ vessels will be permitted to participate in the CHART programme. Any incidental mortalities which occur during this activity will be taken from the [10] tonnes quota allocated to this activity. All obligations stated under para 45 will be complied with.		
6	Transshipment (para 77, 78 and 80)	UK vessels are prohibited from transshipping at sea.	Article 20 of retained Regulation 1224/2009 (Commercial vessels)	
7	VMS (para 105)	<p>Commercial bycatch Commercial vessels of over 12m in length must have an operational VMS system to operate in UK waters.</p> <p>It is the UK's intention that all commercial vessels will be fitted with VMS but a date is not set for this to be complete.</p> <p>Recreational tagging programme Vessels will be required to keep a record of their GPS positions for each tuna fishing day and submit those to the scientific bodies responsible for the CHART programme (e.g. in England the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)).</p>	Article 9 of retained Regulation 1224/2009	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	<p>Commercial bycatch As the UK does not intend to permit any directed commercial fishing for EBFT, it does not intend to deploy observers in line with the requirements of the CPC observers programme. However, the UK does have some coverage of its fleet with the utilisation of cameras.</p> <p>Recreational Tagging programme The CHART programme will implement an observer coverage of at least 5% of all trips to ensure best practice catch, tag and release protocols are observed.</p>		
9	Regional observers programme (para 84)	N/A - The UK has no targeted EBFT fishery and no purse seiners are authorised to catch EBFT.		

¹ Final number to be confirmed.

	Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).	<p>Recreational Tagging programme</p> <p>Conventional floy tagging will be undertaken in the CHART programme by suitably trained skippers. This training will be documented and overseen by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) of Cefas, as the national fisheries laboratory and scientific institute under which this programme will operate.</p> <p>The UK is also planning to undertake continued scientific research to improve understanding of bluefin tuna movements and behaviour. This will be under the auspices of ICCAT GBYP; the UK will apply for RMA on that basis.</p>	UK electronic tagging activities carried out under Cefas' Thunnus project will be conducted in accordance with UK Home Office regulations by trained and licensed individuals operating under an establishment and project licence (see section 5, below).	
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2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The UK does not intend to authorise any commercial vessels to operate a directed fishery for EBFT in 2021.

As referenced above, it is planned to allow up to [30] recreational fishing vessels to participate in a Catch and Release Tag (CHART) programme for Atlantic bluefin tuna in UK waters. The UK quota will be used to account for any incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme. The quota will not be allocated on a vessel-by-vessel basis but will cover the whole CHART programme.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

N/A: the UK does not farm EBFT.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

UK enforcement authorities - the MMO, Marine Scotland Compliance and the Northern Irish Sea Fisheries Inspectorate- have inspection teams at commercial ports and carry out regulatory inspections of landings and sea going enforcement.

Such inspection teams are based in or near to all commercial ports and carry out inspections of at least 5% of landings or transshipments into UK ports each year. Inspections are risk-based and intelligence-led, and annual target rates will be kept under review. This includes recreational and commercial activity and downstream market activity. Control activity will focus on ensuring that no unauthorised marketing takes place and that catches are fully documented. This will apply in respect of any accidental bycatch of EBFT.

Any incidental mortality associated with the CHART programme would be notified to the relevant national Fisheries Administration immediately and any dead EBFT would be brought to shore for biological sampling in support of research. It will not be permissible to offer any such fish for sale. A suite of monitoring measures would be in operation as part of the programme, including observer coverage of at least 5% and all catches will be subject to camera monitoring. Mechanisms are in operation to pause, refine and if necessary close the programme in the face of incidental mortalities which may result in exceeding the allocated quota. Data from the CHART programme are to be reported within 24-hours so catches and incidental mortalities can be evaluated in near real time.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

N/A – no EBFT will be landed for sale as part of the planned CHART programme.

5. Others

The UK will continue to operate the ‘Thunnus UK’ bluefin tuna research programme, which is focussed on generating new information and understanding of the residency, migrations and behaviour of bluefin tuna found in UK waters. All tagging and sampling work is conducted in accordance, and consistent with, ICCAT GBYP protocols and techniques, and contributes to the GBYP’s research goals. Any mortality associated with this project is to be covered by RMA.

Tuna vessel fleet	Fleet (vessels)															Fishing capacity												
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	Not applicable as the UK has had no allocation of EBFT quota in the years covered and there has been no directed fishing for EBFT by UK vessels in any of those years.																										
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																											
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																											
Purse seine total fleet																												
Longliner over 40m	25																											
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																											
Longliner less than 24m	5																											
Total longline fleet																												
Baitboat	19.8																											
Handline	5																											
Trawler	10																											
Trap	130																											
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																											
Other (please specify)	5																											
Total fleet/fishing capacity																												
Quota																												
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																												
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																												
Under/ overcapacity																												

CHINESE TAIPEI

Fishing Plan Year: 2021

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

The initial eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT) quota allocated to Chinese Taipei in 2021 is 90 t, of which 50 t will be transferred to Korea pursuant to paragraph 5 of Rec. 19-04, which is expected to be rolled over to 2021. Hence, the adjusted quota will be 40 t.

Chinese Taipei has established regulations to prohibit its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009, and such regulations still remain in force. As a result, no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2021. In addition, the domestic regulations have also required fishermen to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook or e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. The bycatch amount in 2020 is 0. In any event, Chinese Taipei will deduct the bycatch amount from the 40 t of adjusted quota.

It should be noted that the E-BFT quota is granted to Chinese Taipei based on its previous catch records, and thus should be deemed the historical right of Chinese Taipei. The prohibition to such a fishery is implemented on voluntary basis, and Chinese Taipei reserves the right to resume the E-BFT fishery at any time considered appropriate by the Fisheries Agency.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Any bycatch of E-BFT is required to be immediately discarded, and the amount of discard shall be recorded on the catch logbook or E-logbook for submission to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. 	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. No fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch and retain E-BFT in the ICCAT Convention area in 2021.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	

4	Bycatch (para 38)	Fishermen are required to discard E-BFT bycatch, record such bycatch information on the logbook or e-logbook, and report to the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei. In case of bycatch, Chinese Taipei will deduct the amount from the 40 t of adjusted quota.	Article 41 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-47)	Not applicable. Chinese Taipei does not have recreational and sports fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area.	Not applicable.	
6	Transshipment (para 77 - 82)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
7	VMS (para 105)	All Chinese Taipei's vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention area are installed with the VMS, report vessels positions hourly, and are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.	Article 33 of the Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation	
8	CPC observers programme (para 83)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
9	Regional observers programme (para 84 and 85)	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>	Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in in any kind of E-BFT fishery since 2009. Hence, this requirement is not applicable.	Not applicable.	

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

The table is attached.

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Not applicable.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Even though Chinese Taipei is not a port State bordering the Atlantic Ocean, it has established and implemented port State measures whereby four ports, Keelung Port, Kaohsiung Port, Chen-Pin Fishing Harbour, and Chien-Chen Fishing Harbour, are designated for entry of foreign fishing vessels. Besides, any foreign fishing vessel entering into those ports shall submit prior notification, declare its purpose of port entry, and report its catches onboard. Currently, the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei carries out a minimum of 5% inspection rate in accordance with the National Plan of Control and Inspection. Up to date, no landing of Atlantic E-BFT is reported or found.

Chinese Taipei does not conduct E-BFT farming in the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, paragraphs 97, 99, 103, and 104 are not applicable.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Since Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from engaging in any kind of E-BFT fishery, and the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection is thus not applicable.

5. Others

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>	<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>															<i>Fishing capacity</i>													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24m and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine total fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quota															68.71	66.3	41.6	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	79	84	90	90	
Adjusted quota if applicable)															68.71	66.3	41.6	39.75	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29	34	40	40*	
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable)																													
Under/ overcapacity															-68.71	-66.3	-41.6	-39.75	-39.75	-31.29	-31.29	-38.76	-48.28	-59.97	-29	-34	-40	-40	

* In case of bycatch, the amount will be deducted from the 40 t of adjusted quota.

**Statement by the European Union on the
Fishing Capacity for the Fishery for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna**

The European Union (EU) thanks the various CPCs for providing their fishing, capacity and control plans for the 2021 fishery for Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

In the context of the presentation, analysis and adoption of these plans, the EU highlighted its concerns over the pattern of increasing capacity in the fishery since the adoption of the management plan in 2018. In particular, the EU highlighted the occurrence of substantial increases in the number of purse seiners, which do not always seem to be justified to allow the CPCs to catch their quotas.

The main concern for the European Union is that if this capacity creep remains unchecked, it could lead to overcapacity in the fishery and thereby threaten the recovery of the stocks. It is for these reasons that the EU proposal initially tabled in 2018 included a much stricter regime of capacity control than the one ultimately adopted by the Commission.

For these reasons, the EU will continue to scrutinise the rationale for possible capacity increases, and to advocate for the adoption of stricter capacity measures. Notwithstanding these concerns, the European Union would like to thank both Algeria and Turkey for their understanding and flexibility in reviewing their capacity figures.

Finally, the European Union is looking forward to the provision by SCRS of the updated catch rates, which should form the basis for calculating the maximum number of vessels authorised in the fishery.

Statement by EU on the transfer of BFT quota to the UK

Following the communication to ICCAT of the quota transfer for bluefin tuna resulting from the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the European Union is in the process of implementing this transfer into EU legislation, including notably how it is financed. This internal process is expected to be completed in the near future and an updated fishing plan will be sent to ICCAT as soon as completed.

Revised format for fishing plans (CP47) [PA2_24A]

CP47-E-BFTPlan

EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING,
FARMING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Name of CPC: XXX

Fishing Plan Year: 20XX

1. Details of annual fishing plan for catching vessels and traps (para 16-17)

Each CPC will provide information on all fishing gear groups that catch Atlantic bluefin tuna, including the total number of vessels or traps in each group, how quotas are allocated to each gear group and, where applicable, how they are allocated to each vessel or trap in that group. CPCs will also provide information on method(s) used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure compliance with individual quotas, the open fishing season for each gear category and the rules on bycatch.

CPCs should also complete the following table:

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 19-04 as amended by 20-07)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Catch recording and reporting (para 63-68)			The information should include type of logbook (electronic or bound) and clarify that dead fish (retained or discarded) will be counted against the quota.
2	Fisheries openings (para 29-32)			Fishing areas and seasons should be clearly defined.
3	Minimum size (para 34-36)			
4	Bycatch (para 38)			Specify a quota for bycatch. Include levels of bycatch in previous years for reference. Clarify whether bycatches, including discards, are counted against the quota.
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 39-45)			
6	Designated ports (paras 69-72)			A CP24 form should be

				submitted unless third party ports are to be used in which case these should be listed here
7	Transhipment (para 77, 78 and 80)			Note, only transhipment in port is permitted. See also 6 above
8	VMS (para 105)			
9	CPC observers programme (para 83)			
10	Regional observers programme (para 84)			
11	Adjustment of fishing capacity (paras 20-23)			Please provide specific detail regarding implementation of paragraphs 20, 22, or 23, as applicable
	<i>Other requirements, such as: tagging programme (para 45).</i>			

2. Annual fishing capacity management plan (para 18-23)

Each CPC will provide the number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity using the template provided by the Secretariat (attached).

3. Annual farming management plan (para 8; 24-27), as applicable

Each CPC will develop an annual farming management plan showing that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated quantity of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paras 8 as well as 25 – 27.

4. Monitoring, control and inspection plan

a) CPC's monitoring, control and inspection (para 73, 97, 99, 103 and 104)

Each CPC will provide information on their monitoring, control and inspection plan.

b) Joint Scheme of International Inspection (para 109-112)

Each CPC will provide information about joint international inspections that are implemented in accordance with Part V of Rec. 19-04, Annex 7 (if applicable). Note that those with more than 15 fishing vessels must participate unless the CPC reports the results of the risk assessment and its alternative measures. Also note that "fishing vessels" include not only catching vessels but also other types of vessels (see para 3. a of Rec. 19-04 for more details).

5. Others

CPCs with research projects are encouraged to briefly explain their research plans.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>											<i>Fishing capacity</i>													
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS in 2009 (t)																									
		2009	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2009	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																									
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																									
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.68																									
Purse seine total fleet																										
Longliner over 40m	25																									
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																									
Longliner less than 24m	5																									
Total longline fleet																										
Baitboat	19,8																									
Handline	5																									
Trawler	10																									
Trap	130																									
Small coastal vessels and baitboats from the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira	N/A																									
Other (please specify)	5																									
Total fleet/fishing capacity																										
Quota ⁽¹⁾																										
Carry-over (if possible and requested)																										
Allowance for bycatch																										
Allowance for sports/recreational (if applicable) ⁽²⁾																										
Adjusted quota if applicable ⁽³⁾																										
Under/overcapacity ⁽⁴⁾																										

(1) Enter the original allocation which should include transfer.
(2) "Allowance for sports/recreational" must be within the "Quota" or "Adjusted quota."
(3) Adjusted quota = Quota + Carry-over - Allowance for bycatch - Allowance for sports/recreational.
(4) "Under/overcapacity" is calculated by subtracting the figure in "Quota" or "Adjusted quota" from the one in "Total fleet/fishing capacity." If the calculated figure is more than 0, overcapacity exists. If the figure is less than 0, it means undercapacity and use minus (-). For example, if the capacity is 1,000 and the quota is 1050, write "-50" in "Under/overcapacity."

Draft Responses to Requests for Clarifications ROP-BFT by Panel 2 Chair [PA2_19B]

1. Algeria, EU, Turkey and the United States submitted comments. The Panel 2 Chair produced the draft responses below, taking into account these comments as well as provisions of relevant Recommendations.
2. Some questions can be answered by providing interpretation of certain provisions whereas some questions seem to require more fundamental action such as amendment to Rec. 19-04. For the latter ones, the Panel 2 Chair suggests practical solutions as a temporary measure for the 2021 fishing season while acknowledging that they should be addressed by amending existing Recommendations.
3. In providing practical solutions, the Panel 2 Chair tried not to prejudge the future discussion on possible amendments to Recommendations.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested</i>
Inter-farm transfers	<p>Inter-farm transfers, as per definition Para 3h in Rec. 19-04 – “any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another”, are defined as a transfer, and therefore subject to the requirements of Para 86 - 93. In addition, Para 84 requires 100% ROP coverage of these operations.</p> <p>Can the consortium have confirmation of how such operations should be monitored and what documentation should be completed and the ROP observer expected to verify and sign at each stage at the donor and/or recipient farm?</p>	<p>- It should be considered that an inter-farm transfer consists of two parts: a transfer from the farm of origin to the transport cage, which is subject to the requirements of Para 86-93; and a caging operation, which is subject to the requirements of Para 94-104.</p> <p>- eBCD: TRANSFER INFORMATION must be completed for the transfer from the farm to the transporting cage. This requires verification and sign of the observer. TRADE INFORMATION (1st one for live fish trade) must be completed if the CPC of the original farm is different from the CPC of the receiving farm. This does not require verification and sign of the observer, but the observer must keep a copy of the related eBCD. FARMING INFORMATION must be completed for the transfer from the transporting cage to the receiving farm. This requires verification and sign of the observer.</p>	<p>ITD form (Annex 4 of Rec. 19-04) should be amended to address the transfer of fish from the transport cage to the receiving farm in inter-farm transfers.</p>	<p>In line with Panel 2 comments, in the majority of cases observed, the donor farm produces an ITD, which the observer signs in section 2 (assuming requirements of 86-93 are considered met), and the donor farm produces an eBCD and ICD which the observer signs at the caging section 6.</p> <p>How will the observer at the donor farm, be able to sign the eBCD for transfer without</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
		<p>- ITD: For the transfer from the farm to the transporting cage, TRANSFER INFORMATION must be completed, adding a note that “it is an inter-farm transfer.” It must be verified and signed by the observer. For the transfer from the transporting cage to the receiving farm, TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINED FOR FARMING must be completed. It must be verified and signed by the observer. As TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINED FOR FARMING has no column for verification and signature by the observer, the Panel 2 Chair suggests that the observer add a note that “it is an inter-farm transfer” and write the observer’s name and ICCAT number and sign somewhere.</p>		<p>modification of the eBCD.</p> <p>The observer at the donor farm should be able to sign in section 2 in the ITD.</p>
Inter-farm transfers	<p>Currently the ITD template in Annex 4 of the Recommendation does not include a template for recording donor farm information.</p> <p>Can guidance be provided on how donor farm information is to be recorded in order to assist the ROP observer verifying the ITD?</p>	<p>The Panel 2 Chair suggests that “farm operator name and signature” in TRANSFER INFORMATION of Annex 4 be used for recording the donor farm information.</p>		<p>Our opinion is that that replacing Trap name with Trap / Farm name, in the second box of section 1 of the ITD, would allow this information to be included.</p>
Voluntary control / control transfers	<p>The specific procedure for documenting original transfers and subsequent voluntary control, and potentially control, transfers is not consistent, and often the transfers are not recorded in full.</p> <p>The consortium would like to have clarification on whether the details of each</p>	<p>- A control transfer, whether it is a voluntary or officially ordered one, is conducted due to insufficient quality of the video footage. Para 92 of Rec. 19-04 says, “New transfers shall be conducted as control transfer(s)/control caging(s) until the quality of the video record allows estimation of the quantities transferred.” This means that the last transfer is the</p>		<p>Based on comments, we understand that only the final transfer of series of original, voluntary and control transfers is recorded in the</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
	of the original transfer, voluntary control and control transfers should be recorded on the ITD and where, as Para 89 and Annex 4 of the Recommendation does not provide explicit guidance on this.	only reliable one, which must be recorded in Annex 4. - If CPCs want to record all the unsuccessful and successful transfers, Annex 4 must be amended.		ITD. There is no requirement to record prior unsuccessful transfers and control transfers. If a CPC chooses to include this information on unsuccessful transfers, the structure of the ITD must be amended (which to date we have not observed).
Voluntary control / control transfers	Para 86 also requires that before any transfer authorisation (assumed to include voluntary and control), a prior transfer notification is required, and Para 87 requires a transfer authorization for each transfer. Is the vessel able to use the same prior transfer notification and subsequent authorization number for a voluntary control transfer and/or control transfer (which in the consortium's opinion would be the most efficient)?	- The same prior transfer notification and subsequent authorization number should be used. Regardless of how many control transfers are conducted, there is only one transfer which gives the final estimate. - If the authority considers that a different ITD with a new number should be produced for an officially ordered control transfer, it should be OK. In this case, the observer must use it.		Understood that only one prior transfer notification and transfer authorization required for a transfer and any subsequent voluntary control and control transfers.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
				Also understood that a different ITD may be used, but not required.
Voluntary control / control transfers	Can the consortium have clarification on whether the ROP is expected to monitor and report on a voluntary control transfer during the fishing season, after a period of time during which the ROP has not been able to monitor the cage and any associated activities (for example if the catching vessel left the area and later returned)?	<p>- Para 92 of Rec. 19-04 says that the ICCAT regional Observer on board the catching vessel or trap shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization.</p> <p>- Para 92 also says that when the video record is of insufficient quality to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel or trap to conduct a voluntary control transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the regional observer. If a voluntary control transfer is conducted, the vessel with the observer must stay on the site so that the observer can observe the voluntary control transfer to verify and sign ITD.</p> <p>- If the voluntary control transfer is not successful, the authority must start an investigation and decide to conduct a control transfer. However, this is not a voluntary control transfer and the observer does not have to observe. Only the video record shall be given to the observer.</p>		<p>The consortium understands that the ROP must monitor any voluntary control transfer and review the video record.</p> <p>For any control transfer, the observer is not required to monitor control transfers.</p> <p>However, if requested to monitor and present for the control operation, shall the observer monitor the control transfer and sign the ITD if considered compliant with Rec. 19-04?</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
				Can the consortium also have clarification on what should happen, if the observer and vessel leave the cage area between the original and voluntary transfer? In our opinion, the observer is no longer able to corroborate that the same tuna from the original transfer are being transferred in the subsequent voluntary transfer.
Voluntary control / control transfers	Para 92 states that in cases when the “ <i>video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimates</i> ”, a voluntary control transfer may be requested. In situations the video is not compliant for reasons such as no transfer authorisation shown at the beginning and/or end of video, non-continuous video record, time and date not displayed etc. would this video be considered as of insufficient clarity or	- The situations such as no transfer authorisation shown at the beginning of video, non-continuous video record, time and date not displayed, are considered insufficient clarity or quality to make estimates and therefore applicable for a voluntary transfer. [EU] - If these situations are observed during a voluntary control transfer, the regional observer shall issue a PNC and the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall		The consortium understands that any issue, such as no transfer authorisation shown at the beginning of video, non-continuous video record, time and date not displayed,

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> <i>Understood and clarified</i> <i>Suggestion by consortium</i> <i>Further clarification requested</i>
	<p>quality to make an estimate, and therefore applicable for a voluntary transfer, or would the observer immediately issue a PNC and not sign the ITD?</p>	<p>investigate the case. If such investigation is not conducted, the observer must issue a PNC and not sign the ITD. [PA2 Chair as modified by EU]</p> <p>- If such investigation is conducted but confirms that the quality of the video is still insufficient, the flag CPC authorities shall order another control transfer. If this control transfer is not conducted, the observer must issue a PNC and not sign the ITD. [PA2 Chair]</p> <p>- The situations such as no transfer authorisation shown at the beginning of video, non-continuous video record, time and date not displayed, can be considered as of insufficient clarity or quality to make estimates and, per para 92, at least one voluntary control transfer can be requested by the operator. If the video(s) from the voluntary control transfer(s) still does/do not permit the ICCAT observer to estimate the quantities involved, one or more control transfers will be done at the direction of CPC enforcement authorities and the corresponding video record will be provided to the regional observer. Such control transfers will take place until the quality of the video record allows the estimation of the quantities transferred. Notwithstanding this process, para 93 states that the ICCAT regional observer shall sign the ITD only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with</p>		<p>opening and/or closing of gate not shown, which may result in the observer being unable to make an accurate estimate, permits a voluntary control transfer to be carried out in line with Para. 92.</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
		<p>his/her observations, including a compliant video record as per the requirements of para 92. If a compliant video record cannot be provided to the observer while he/she is on the scene, the observer must issue a PNC and not sign the ITD. [USA]</p> <p>- If these situations are observed during a voluntary control transfer, then, in accordance with subsection 3 of paragraph 92 of Rec. 19-04, an enquiry shall be launched by the flag CPC, and if at the end of this enquiry, it is confirmed that the quality of the video does not allow estimation of the quantities questioned during the transfer, the authorities of that CPC shall order another control transfer operation and provide the video recording to the regional observer. New control transfers shall be ordered until the quality of the video recording allows estimation of the quantities transferred. If the observer cannot be present to monitor/observe the transfers ordered, then he/ she must not sign the ITD. [Morocco]</p>		
Natural mortalities	<p>Natural mortalities of tuna occur during farming operations. While these do not require the observer signature, the observer will include these natural mortalities in the report.</p> <p>Should such natural mortalities always have an BCD generated and should the observer submit a PNC (in potential non-compliance with requirements of Rec. 18-13) if no eBCD</p>	<p>- Natural mortalities occur anytime whether the observer is present or not. It does not require the observer's signature. There is no obligation to make the eBCD on natural mortalities available to the observer,</p> <p>- The observer must record and report the dead fish.</p>		<p>The observer shall continue to monitor natural mortalities as such, and indicate any eBCDs allocated to them and whether these were signed by the ROP.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Suggested response	Note	ROP comments Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
	<p>is presented for the natural mortalities? As natural mortality eBCDs bypass observer signature, the observer is not always able to include eBCD records. The consortium would like to clarify if natural mortality eBCDs should be made available to the observer.</p>	<p>- The observer is encouraged to collect information on natural mortalities and put such information in the report. [PA2 Chair]</p> <p>- Natural mortalities can occur anytime whether the observer is present or not. An eBCD must be generated for such mortalities, but they do not require the observer's signature. There is no obligation to make the eBCD on natural mortalities available to the observer but CPCs/operators should provide this information to the observer if requested as the observer is required to record and report the dead fish and, per paragraph 85, has the general responsibility to observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures, including completion of eBCDs where needed to support their work. In that regard, if the regional observer does not have access to the necessary information to effectively track the disposition of fish from harvest to the point of caging, he/she will not have the data needed to be able to verify his/her observations and should not sign ITDs. [USA]</p>		<p>Observer will also request from the farm any information on relevant eBCDs for their records, noting also that the farm is not obliged to produce and/or provide these to the observer.</p> <p>In the case that no eBCD is produced for natural mortality, a note shall be made in the report, but no PNC will be issued as the assumption will be that this tuna was not traded and therefore exempt.</p>
Caging operations / natural mortalities	<p>During caging operations, dead fish / natural mortalities may occur. The consortium would like to have clarification on how these mortalities should be recorded by the farm, within which document, and subsequently verified by the observers, for the following</p>	<p>- It does not matter whether natural mortalities occur in farm cages or transport cages during caging operations. The final number of live fish caged must be correctly recorded in eBCD and caging declaration, which shall be verified and signed by the observer.</p>		<p>It is not clear exactly where this shall be recorded in the ICCAT Caging Declaration.</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	ROP comments Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
	<p>scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that natural mortalities occur within the farm cage; and <p>for when these natural mortalities may occur within the transport cage.</p>	<p>Mortality occurring during transport shall be reported in the caging declaration as specified in paragraph 2(b) Rec. 06-07. [EU]</p> <p>For this purpose, the observer is encouraged to collect relevant information from the farm in addition to his or her visual confirmation on natural mortalities. [PA2 Chair]</p> <p>It should not matter whether natural mortalities occur in farm cages or transport cages during caging operations. In either case, natural mortalities must be entered into the eBCD system. The final number of live fish caged must also be correctly recorded in the eBCD as well as in the caging declaration. As noted above, the regional observer should have access to relevant information, including mortalities as recorded in the eBCD, to be able to verify that the quantities being caged are correct and other relevant requirements of Rec. 19-04 are being followed. If not, he/she will not be able to sign the caging declaration. If a bluefin tuna dies in the cage after completion of the caging operation, removal of the dead bluefin tuna would be subject to the harvest provisions of Rec. 19-04, which includes, <i>inter alia</i>, the presence of</p>		<p>In line with the above point, the observer will treat any mortalities resulting from caging as per natural mortalities. They shall record any documentation produced while also noting that the farm may not be required to produce or provide these if the tuna was not traded.</p> <p>The observer in the final report will include a note indicating those tuna removed from the farm during caging operations as incidental mortalities. This will be included in the harvest section of the deployment report.</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Clarification sought</i>	<i>Suggested response</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>ROP comments</i> Understood and clarified Suggestion by consortium Further clarification requested
		an ICCAT observer and completion of the eBCD. [USA]		
ROP programme	<p>Para 84 states that one ROP observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations except for situations of force majeure.</p> <p>Can the consortium have clarification on the definition of an individual farm as there have been examples of separate farms within the ICCCAT record sharing one observer for caging operations?</p>	<p>- An individual farm corresponds to the ones reported on the ICCATs record of farms.</p> <p>- There are cases that multiple farms share one observer, but this should be regarded as a kind of extraordinary measure as a result of difficulties finding the required number of observers.</p>		<p>In the absence of extraordinary measures being required, will separate farms, corresponding with what is on the ICCAT record of farms, will require separate observers at cagings?</p> <p>In the absence of agreed clarification, the consortium will respond to requests for multi farm caging communicated by ICCAT and assume that exemptions and / or extraordinary measures apply.</p>
Logbook requirements	Annex 2 of the Rec. states that logbook must be completed every day by midnight, or before port arrival. When in port for the entire day, are vessels also required to complete the logbook?	- Para 5 of “Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks” in Annex 2 of Rec. 19-04 requires the fishing master to record operation at sea with one line per day of trip. Annex 2 also has a section “Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment.		The consortium understands that no logbook entries are required for those days in which the vessel is in port and not engaged in

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		- These indicate that the logbook does not have to be filled in when the catching vessel is at port and neither engaged in landing nor transshipment.		landing nor transshipment.
Farm releases	Several observers have reported release operations involving tuna caught in the same year, being released later than the 3 weeks required by Rec. 19-04; Para 99 and Annex 10. As these are not tuna left over from harvest operations, is the consortium correct in considering this as a PNC? Can the consortium also have confirmation on how the end of caging operations are to be defined?	- Para 102 of Rec. 19-04 says that a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed. This is contradictory to Annex 10 which says that release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations because para 102 assumes that release is supposed to happen before completion of caging operations whereas Annex 10 assumes release after completion of caging operations. - For the time being, the Panel 2 Chair suggests that 3 weeks be counted after completion of investigations.	This contradiction should be rectified in the future discussion amending Rec. 19-04.	The consortium understands that the end of caging operations is the end of investigations. Can the consortium confirm how the observer will know the completion of investigations? Should this be once the final eBCD and ICD have been produced? In case of any doubt the consortium suggests sending a PNC for any release believed to have occurred after 3 weeks following completion of investigations, noting that release related PNCs do not result in any non-signing of

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				documents.

A draft response to the SCRS on the growth ratio prepared by the PA2 Chair [PA2_20]

1. Background

The BFT sub-group on Growth in farms has been holding discussions on several relevant matters regarding the provision of a response to the Commission on maximum growth in farms. During the discussion, they encountered one question on the timing from which growth should be estimated. After caught by purse seiner, BFT are often towed for several days up to a month before the caging operation. During this period the fish tend to lose weight. The group discussed whether growth should be estimated from the time of catch or caging but could not reach consensus and decided to ask Panel 2.

2. Suggested answer from Panel 2 to the sub-group

(1) The objective of this practice is to see if the observed growth can be scientifically justified by comparing the caged weight with harvested weight. Thus, the answer seems to be the time of caging. However, it is not so simple because while harvested weights come from actual measurement, caged weights can be estimated in two ways, namely, (i) weight calculated based on length measured using stereo video cameras and (ii) directly observed weight (still estimated unless fish is killed and measured).

(2) If fish loses weight during towing while length remains unchanged, (ii) is always lighter than (i). If growth ratios are established by the SCRS based on (ii) and CPCs apply such ratios to the weight at harvest to estimate the weight at caging retrospectively, it underestimates the weight at caging (please see Table below for simplified case).

<i>At catch</i>	<i>At caging</i>	<i>At harvest</i>	<i>Growth ratio</i>
40 kg	40 kg (calculated weight)	90 kg	125%
	30 kg (observed weight)	90 kg	200%

(3) It should be noted that the ultimate purpose of all these exercises is NOT to calculate caged weights retrospectively. The ultimate purpose is to check if the weight at the time of catch is consistent with the reported figures. Thus, if caged weights are underestimated, they must be further adjusted to original weights at catch. For this purpose, there must be another formula to convert the estimated weight at caging to the weight at catch, depending on the duration of towing and the average size of fish. However, this would add further complication to the exercise.

(4) On the other hand, if weight calculated based on length measured using stereo video cameras is used to establish growth ratios by the SCRS, there will be no underestimate of the weight at caging and catch, again on the assumption that the length does not change during the towing period. It should be noted that the length-weight relationship of wild fish should be used for this weight calculation.

(5) The original question from the SCRS was whether the weight at harvest should be compared with the weight at caging or at catch in order to produce maximum weight gain during the farming. The answer is “the weight at caging”, but the real question to be answered is whether the weight at caging should be the weight estimated using length or the weight observed, and the answer to this question is “the weight estimated using length.”

Proposed Indicators to detect Exceptional circumstances in North Atlantic Albacore [PA2_21A]

<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances</i>	<i>Note</i>
				US said that the information in the column 'Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances' should be linked with the metarule to be discussed separately. Chair agrees. US suggests that the official name of the report be used rather than simply saying "Atl ALB SA."
1) Stock dynamics	Relative stock biomass (B/B_{MSY}) ¹	Falls outside the full range of values in each year from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	Each full/benchmark stock assessment (every 6-7 years)	US wants to clarify the meaning of the criterion. Chair transmitted the US questions to the SCRS. US is satisfied with the SCRS response and suggests putting it in the footnote. Chair agrees (see footnote 1 and 2).
	Relative Fishing mortality (F/F_{MSY}) ¹			
	Growth	Are substantially different from the values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	After completion, presentation, and acceptance by SCRS of a study as the new reference	
	Maturity			
Natural mortality				
	CPUE ²	Falls outside the full range of values in each year from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	Annually	US wants to clarify the meaning of the criterion. Chair transmitted the US questions to the SCRS. US is satisfied with the SCRS response and suggests putting it in the footnote. Chair agrees (see footnote 3).
2) Application of the MP	CPUE	If one or more series have not been updated If one or more series are determined to no longer reflect abundance	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)	US suggests changing "HCR" to "MP" in Principle. Chair agrees and this has been reflected.
	Catch	Catch data are unavailable or substantially unreported	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)	US suggests moving the original sentence to 3) below and changing the criterion and frequency of evaluation here. These have been reflected, but please see 3) below for the SCRS comments. This requires further discussion.

¹ B/B_{MSY} or F/F_{MSY} : the criteria is that in every benchmark assessment, the estimated B/B_{MSY} or F/F_{MSY} trajectories are plotted (overlaid) on top of those used in the OMs (Figures 19 and 20 of the MSE Consolidated document (SCRS/2020/153)). The SCRS would compare the new estimated stock trajectory with the potential realities of the stock contemplated in the OMs. If the new trend falls within the trends considered in the OMs, there is no exceptional circumstance. The criteria, as written, implies that if in a single year, relative biomass or fishing mortality falls outside of the values considered in the OMs, then an exceptional circumstance could be claimed. Note that triggering an exceptional circumstance does not immediately result in TAC advice from the MP being rescinded, only that the SCRS would need to examine the indicators and determine if a change in advice is warranted.

² The criteria are that every year the SCRS would update the standardized CPUEs and plot the new time series on top of those used in the MSE (Figure 23 of the MSE Consolidated document (SCRS/2020/153)). The trend should be within the values considered in the OMs for every single year. As with B and F, triggering an exceptional circumstance does not immediately result in TAC advice from the MP being rescinded, only that the SCRS would need to examine the indicators and determine if a change in advice is warranted.

	Relative stock biomass (B/B_{MSY}) ³	Values from the production model in an iteration of the MP fall outside the full range of values in each year produced by the accepted MP's production model during MSE testing	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)	US wants to clarify the meaning of the criterion. Chair transmitted the US questions to the SCRS. US is satisfied with the SCRS response and suggests putting it in the footnote. Chair agrees (see footnote 4).
	Relative Fishing mortality (F/F_{MSY})			
3) Implementation of the TAC	Catch	Total catch is above the TAC set using the MP plus the allowed carry overs	Annually	This item is a reflection of the US suggestion. ⁴ The SCRS commented that this addition of a new category is seen as redundant if catch is incorporated under "Application of the MP" and is not sure of the justification for moving this item from 2) above. US responded that under this principle, the idea is that implementation of the TAC resulting from the application of the MP would be reviewed every year. If catches have substantially exceeded the TAC - regardless of the underharvest carry-over allowance - this may call into question of the continued implementation of the TAC for those years that fall between one application of the MP and the next (the MP is applied on a three year cycle). This requires further discussion.

³ F/F_{MSY} : every 3 years (MP iteration), the relative F series estimated by the MP is plotted (overlaid), on top of those estimated by the MP in the iterations of the MSE (Figures 21-22 of the MSE Consolidated document). The comparison is the "estimated trajectories" to the "estimated trajectories considered in the MSE". Again, the trend should be within the values considered in the OMs for every single year.

⁴ US says that if adding a new principle is seen as confusing or is otherwise not acceptable, their concern can also be addressed in the following manner:

1. Broadening the name of the "Application of the MP" principle to become "Application of the MP and its implementation"
2. Including both aspects of catch in the criteria section and linking them to the relevant frequency, as follows:
 - Catch data are unavailable or substantially unreported. Frequency: Each MP iteration (every three years)
 - Total catch is above the TAC set using the MP plus the allowed carry overs. Frequency: Annually

Brief Update on North Atlantic Albacore Exceptional Circumstances [PA2_27]

Exceptional circumstances are triggered when reality diverges from what was simulated in the analyses conducted to adopt the HCR. In 2020, taking into account the Panel 2 discussions and input provided by CPCs to the March 2020 Panel 2 meeting, the SCRS updated the list of indicators to detect such Exceptional Circumstances.

These were organized around two main principles:

1. When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE and/or;
2. When there is evidence that the data required to apply the HCR are not available or are no longer appropriate.

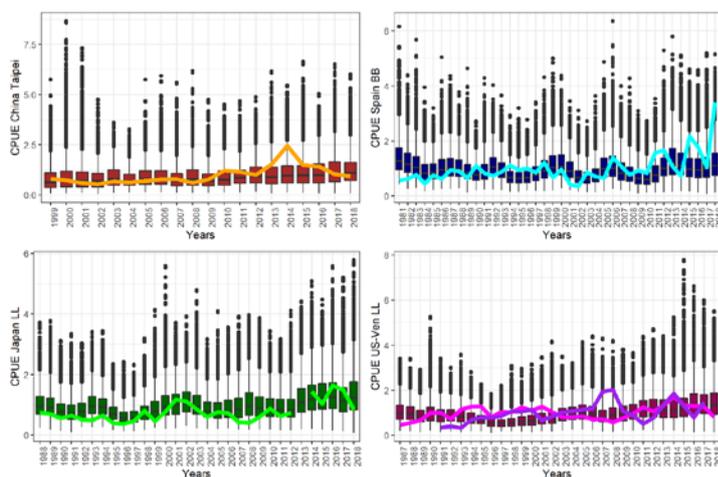
These principles are general in nature and can be modified.

The suggested indicators require different data (catch, CPUE, biological data) and stock status indicators (F/F_{MSY} and B/B_{MSY}) for both the simulated realities of the stock and the simulated stock assessments. The exercise of determining whether exceptional circumstances occur involved checking that the new data and stock status indicators are available and within the range of values used in the simulations.

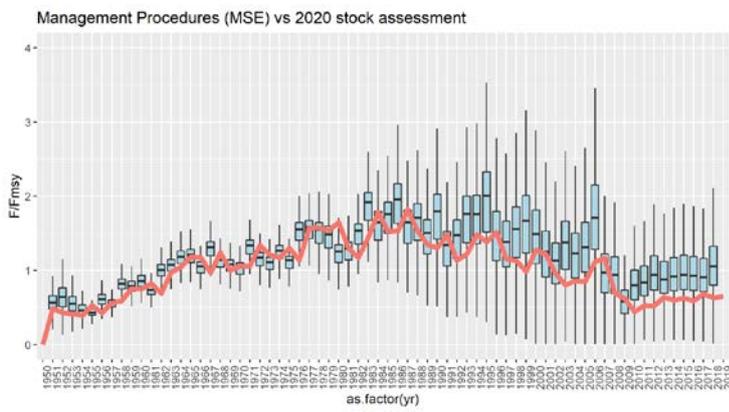
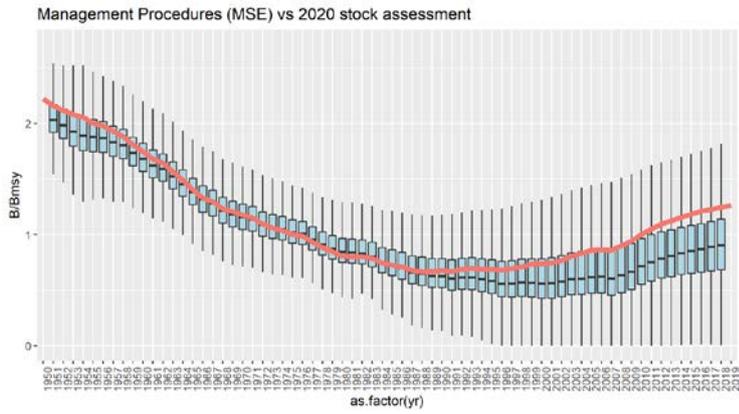
Each indicator is evaluated with a different periodicity. In a regular year (between HCR iterations), updated catch and CPUE values can be evaluated. When the HCR is iterated (every 3 years), the B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} trajectories estimated by the production mode can be compared to the homologous estimates in the simulations. And when a full/benchmark assessment is conducted (every 6-7 years), the estimated B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} trajectories can be compared to the simulated realities for the stock.

As an example, below are the main plots used in 2020 (a year when the HCR was iterated) to determine that there was no indication of exceptional circumstances, as the new trajectories (lines) lied within simulated bounds (boxplots). Similar plots would be used for different indicators in different years.

- CPUE was within simulated bounds:



- Estimated B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} were within simulated bounds:



Brief Update of Bluefin MSE process [PA2_25]

The SCRS gives the bluefin tuna MSE process top priority for 2021 and 2022. Based on the proposed workplan of the SCRS and subsequently revised 2021 Commission calendar, the current MSE process is on schedule to provide TAC advice for 2023 at the 2022 Commission meeting. Details of this schedule are available in the revised (December 2020) *Road map for the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)*. The Commission has also requested the SCRS conduct an updated western bluefin tuna assessment. Given the time allotted in the ICCAT calendar, this should not affect the progress of the MSE. Further, ongoing revisions of many indices in early 2021 in advance of the western assessment will also strengthen a number of important indicators used in the MSE.

Overall, the operating models cover a broad range of possibilities and contingency scenarios designed to achieve robust management. Unlike the current two stock assessment approach where the west and east areas are considered independent, the MSE explicitly accounts for the inherent movement and mixing dynamics of the eastern and western origin stocks. Under the current understanding of the biology, the eastern and the western stocks are linked whereby substantial movement and differential stock sizes (biomass approximately 10 to 1, east to west) creates substantial mixing, particularly in the west area. Consequently, what occurs in one stock may affect the other. For example, maintaining stock status for the western stock may require adjusting the east area TAC.

2021 Key Milestones:

- To adopt a reference grid of operating models
- To implement a plausibility weighting scheme for the grid
- Initiate an independent peer review of the MSE code
- To refine a set of index and model-based candidate management procedures under development from six individual developer teams
- The operating models will also be ‘reconditioned’ - a process which will bring them up to a terminal year of 2018 and will incorporate the most recent index improvements which will occur as part of the bluefin tuna workplan
- Choice of a limited number CMPs to be approved by the SCRS and presented to the Commission (Panel 2)
- Dialogue Meeting with Panel 2 in the 2021 Commission meeting. The primary purpose of these initial CMPs will be to illustrate the process, elucidate the inherent management tradeoffs, gauge the acceptability of CMPs and be provided with recommendations for their further refinement

2022 Key Milestones:

- During 2022, further dialogue with Panel 2 will be critical to refining these initial CMPs to best achieve acceptability across the various tradeoffs
- Develop guidance on developing exceptional circumstances provisions (to be finalized by the end of 2023) and associated management responses
- SCRS continues to refine (improve) CMPs
- Presentation of CMPs (no more than 3) to Commission at the 2022 Annual meeting for potential adoption of one of these for 2023 TAC advice

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending The Recommendation 19-04 Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

(Submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures)

In agreement with the mandate given by PA2, this revised version of Rec 19-04 clarifies the provisions related to the transfer, the caging and farming of live BFT, the role of national and regional observers and the responsibilities of operators and CPC administrations.

The overall scope of this exercise is to make the relevant provisions more clear and transparent, and to improve and reinforce as far as possible the related control activities in order to make their enforcement more effective and efficient.

The text rearranges the provisions of the current Rec 19-04 to improve the flow and looks at a common understanding among CPCs of the complex activities related to live BFT.

The document imports relevant provisions disseminated in other Recs. in force (mainly 06-07 and 18-13), inserts the modifications agreed in Panel 2 and suggests new sub-titles and new paragraphs, either to improve the clarity of an existing provision or to make the control system more efficient.

All paragraphs whose content or location has been changed are marked, by an indication at the beginning of the sentence noting the nature of the change:

- (06-07.2.b) indicates the source of the text, here Rec 06-07 paragraph 2b. The particular provision has been imported possibly as it stands. In some cases the wording has been slightly redrafted for better clarity, but without altering the content.
- (Agreed in PA2) refers to those provisions agreed in PA2.
- (New) are provisions not discussed in PA2 but suggested for consideration by CPCs to enhance a correct implementation of the Recommendation.

To identify and understand the major changes, a box is inserted before each modified section or subheading, to present changes.

Following the text re-arrangement, new numbering has been applied.

The new proposal repeals the relevant provisions of Recommendations 06-07 and 18-13. The preambles of Rec 19-04 need to be adapted accordingly.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2017 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) could be set at 36,000 t to be reached in 2020 in a gradual stepwise way without undermining the success of the recovery plan;

ACKNOWLEDGING the advice from SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures introduced under the Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Recommendation 17-07 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04);

ACKNOWLEDGING paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-07 which states that the Commission shall establish a management plan for the stock in 2018;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS is developing a management strategy evaluation (MSE) process, with the aim to evaluate different management procedures that are robust to the main sources of uncertainty and that MSE process is expected to deliver candidate management procedures in the short but not immediate term (e.g. by 2021-22), the selection of the desired management procedure by the Commission could also take some time. Therefore, it is proposed to have an interim management objective that can be revisited at the time the Commission adopts harvest control rules (HCR). In this context, on the basis of the latest stock assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise (MSE) and after the management procedure, including HCR have been defined by the SCRS, the Commission may decide as from 2020 on changes to the management framework for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, as advised by SCRS;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the small-scale fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that the control of capacity remains effective;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures, and reinforcing traceability of the catches, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish and farming activities.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Part I: General Provisions Objectives

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities hereinafter referred to as CPCs, whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall implement a management plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2019 with the goal of maintaining the biomass around $B_{0.1}$, achieved by fishing at or less than $F_{0.1}$, which the SCRS considers to be reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} .

This objective shall be revisited and modified, if necessary, once Management Strategy Evaluation has made sufficient progress, when alternative management objectives can be considered, and Reference Points, Harvest Control Rules and/or Management procedures can be adopted.

2. When the SCRS stock evaluation indicates that the status and development of the stock (in terms of biomass and/or fishing mortality) is diverting from this objective, safeguards and review clauses as defined in the final provisions of this plan shall apply.

Definitions

3. For purposes of this Recommendation:

- a) “fishing vessel” means any powered vessel used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) “catching vessel” means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) “processing vessel” means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine vessel or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
- e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing cages.
- f) “fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- g) “joint fishing operation” (hereinafter referred to in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key.
- h) “transfer operations” means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage, independently of the presence of a towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of a cage containing live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another farm, or between different cages in the same farm;
 - (New) any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a farm cage to a transport cage;

New definitions have been added to support the changes introduced in the sections related to transfer and caging

- i) (New) “further transfer” means any transfer operation that is conducted after the first transfer from a catching vessel’s net or a trap and before caging at the destination farm;
- j) (New) “donor operator” means the master of the catching or the towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of a farm or a trap, from which a transfer operation is originated.
- k) (New) “CPC of the donor operator” means the CPC that exercises its jurisdiction on the donor operator.
- l) (New) “voluntary transfer” means any additional transfer being voluntarily implemented by the fishing/farming operators for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.

- m) "control transfer" means any transfer being implemented at the request of control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- n) "trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- o) "trap CPC" means the CPC where a tuna trap is installed in the waters under its jurisdiction.
- p) "caging" means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- q) "fattening" or "farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- r) "farm" means a marine area clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seine vessels. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon).
- s) "harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- t) "transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seine, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transshipment.
- u) "sport fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- v) "recreational fishery" means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- w) "stereoscopic camera" means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of measuring the length of the fish and assisting in refining the number and weight of bluefin tuna.
- x) "control camera" means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- y) "BCD or electronic BCD (eBCD)" means a bluefin catch document.
- z) "lengths of vessels" means overall lengths.
- aa) "small-scale coastal vessel" is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following characteristics: a) length overall <12 m; b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial waters of the flag CPC c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours d) the maximum crew number is established at four persons, or e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are selective and have a reduced environmental impact.
- bb) "control caging" means any additional caging being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number and the average weight of fish being caged.
- cc) "farm CPC" means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located.

dd) (18-13. 2.e) “flag CPC” means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged.

Part II: Management measures

TAC and quotas and conditions associated with the allocation of quotas to CPCs

4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 49 a) of this Recommendation.
5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for the years 2019-2020 shall be set at: 32,240 t for 2019 and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quota scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2019 (t)</i>	<i>Quota 2020 (t)</i>
Albania	156	170
Algeria	1,446	1,655
China	90	102
Egypt	266	330
European Union	17,623	19,460
Iceland*	147	180
Japan	2,544	2,819
Korea	184	200
Libya	2,060	2,255
Morocco	2,948	3,284
Norway	239	300
Syria	73	80
Tunisia	2,400	2,655
Turkey	1,880	2,305
Chinese Taipei	84	90
Subtotal	32,140	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	100	115
TOTAL	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined shall not exceed 411 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t).

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

The TAC shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2019 and in 2020.

6. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.
7. Carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. The CPC shall include this request in its fishing/capacity plan for endorsement by the Commission.

The provisions related to carry-over previously in paragraphs 8 and 9 are rearranged:

- **the new § 8 extends the “further control measures” (including provisions under § 103 and 107) to all farms and farming activities and not only to farms with carry-over.**
- **all text related to the carry-over of live bluefin tuna is now moved to section F “Control activities in farms following caging”.**
- **it is considered that the pilot programme for the voluntary exchange of inspectors for the control of farm activities in Res. 19-17 helps control of the BFT farming activities. Therefore a cross-reference is inserted.**

8. (Agreed in PA2) All farm activities shall be subject to a reinforced control system that shall be fully documented in the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.

9. (New) Farm CPCs are encouraged to exchange experience and best practices on control and inspection related to farming activities using the pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel established by the ICCAT Res. 19-17.

(Text related to the carry-over previously in paragraphs 8 and 9 has been moved to section F).

10. The transfer of quota between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned. Those transfers accepted by the CPCs concerned shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 48 hours before they enter into force.
11. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
12. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall pay back in the next subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT Recommendation 96-14.
13. In line with the MSE Roadmap, the SCRS shall continue its MSE work, testing candidate management procedures, including harvest control rules (HCRs), which would support management objectives to be agreed by the Commission. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice, and a dialogue process between scientists and managers, the Commission shall endeavor in 2021 to adopt a management procedure for the stock of Atlantic bluefin in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing and farming capacity management and inspection plans and farming management plans

14. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the Secretariat:
 - a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 16-17.

- b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraphs 18-23.
 - c) A monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. **(New) This plan shall also designate the CPC competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this Recommendation.**
 - d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set out in paragraphs 24-27, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous year, in accordance with paragraph 8.
15. For 2019 and 2020, prior to 31 March of each year and in line with paragraph **227** of this Recommendation, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14. This obligation may be revised after 2020 to allow endorsement of the plans to be done by electronic means. If the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the automatic suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Annual fishing plans

- 16. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on bycatch.
- 17. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between bycatch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

Capacity management measures

Fishing capacity

Adjustment of fishing capacity

- 18. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed by the SCRS no later than 2019 and each time that a stock assessment for eastern bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.
- 19. For that purpose each CPC shall establish, when appropriate, an annual fishing capacity management plan to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally. Such plan shall adjust the number of catching vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by the SCRS in 2009) shall no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:
 - a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment.

- b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 above.
20. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.
 21. For the period 2019-2020, CPCs may authorize a number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.
 22. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 shall not apply:
 - a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to paragraph 14,
 - b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
 23. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2019 and 2020, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraph 16, a different number of traps and vessels to fully utilize their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such adjustments shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Northeast Atlantic in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).

Farming capacity

24. Each **farm** CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraphs 25 and 27. Revised farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming capacity in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
25. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT in 2018.
26. Those developing CPCs without or with less than three tuna farms and that intend to establish new tuna farming facilities shall have the right to establish such facilities with a maximum total farming capacity of up to 1,800 t per CPC. To this end, they shall communicate to ICCAT by including those in their farming plan under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2020.
27. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.

Growth rates

The provision in 06-07.12 related to trials on growth rates by SCRS is already included in paragraph 28. Its transposition to this text is not considered necessary.

28. The SCRS, on the basis of a standardized protocol to be established by the SCRS for the monitoring of recognizable individual fish, shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period. Based on the result of the trials and other scientific information available, the SCRS shall review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c, and present those results to the 2020 Annual meeting of the Commission. In updating the growth table, the SCRS should invite independent scientists who have appropriate expertise to review the analysis. The SCRS shall also consider the difference among geographic areas (including Atlantic and Mediterranean) in updating the table. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the scientists tasked by the SCRS for the trials can have access to and, as required by the protocol, assistance to carry out the trials.

Part III: Technical measures

Open fishing seasons

29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July.

By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean; 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea.

By way of derogation the purse seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November.

By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

30. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred under paragraph 29 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.

31. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.

32. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse seine vessels and vessels referred to in paragraph 31, and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in paragraph 16 to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally.

33. Not later than 2020, the Commission shall decide to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.

Minimum size

34. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115 cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.

35. By derogation from paragraph 34, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations (see **Annex 1**):
- a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats;
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean by the small-scale coastal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and hand-liners;
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea by Croatian flag vessels for the purpose of farming, the relevant CPC may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 66 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to a maximum of 7% by weight of the total quantities of bluefin tuna caught by those Croatian vessels. In addition, for bluefin tuna caught by French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 70 cm.

36. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorizations to vessels fishing under the derogations referred to in paragraph 35. In addition, fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against the CPC quota.

Incidental catches of fish below minimum size

37. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and tuna traps, CPCs may authorize an incidental catch of no more than 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75-115 cm.

This percentage shall be calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board a vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above-mentioned weight or length categories.

General rules on bycatches

38. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized bycatches as well as the methodology to calculate those bycatches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the Secretariat under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of bycatch can be calculated on an annual basis.

All bycatches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If bycatch of bluefin tuna occurs in waters under the fishery jurisdiction of CPCs whose current domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish must be landed, this landing obligation shall be complied with also by vessels flying foreign flags.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as bycatch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however, such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the Secretariat who shall make it available to the SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs **86** to **95** and **219** shall apply to bycatch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of Recommendation 18-12.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

39. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries; that allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries to account for possible dead fish. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.

40. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.

41. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.

42. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 31 July each year.

43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.

44. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.

45. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the North East Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation; b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.

46. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.

47. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 46 shall include the following information:

- a) Name of vessel, register number
- b) ICCAT Record Number (if any)
- c) Previous name (if any)
- d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

Part IV: Control measures

Section A - Records of vessels, traps and farms

Use of aerial means

48. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

ICCAT Record of fishing vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

The provisions in Rec. 06-07 related to the record of vessels are imported.
The set of requested information is completed, in particular to facilitate the identification of the different types of vessels, and refer the IMO number.

49. **(19-04.49)** CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. That record shall consist of the following lists:
- a) catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as per paragraph 3.f of this Recommendation;
 - b) **(19-04.49.c + 06.07.10.b)** other vessels engaged in bluefin tuna related activities, other than catching vessels.
50. **(06-07.10.b)** Each list shall include the following information:
- a) name and registry number of the vessel;
 - b) **(New)** specification of the type of vessel differentiating at least between: catching vessels, towing vessels, auxiliary vessels, support vessels, processing vessels or transport vessels/reefers;
 - c) length and gross registered tonnage (GRT);
 - d) **(New)** IMO number (if any);
 - e) gear used (if any);
 - f) previous flag (if any);
 - g) previous name (if any);
 - h) previous details of deletion for other registers (if any);
 - i) international radio call sign (if any);
 - j) name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); and
 - k) time period authorized for fishing, operating and/or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.
51. **(19-04.49)** For vessels with a LOA >24 m (independently of the gear used excluding for bottom trawlers) and purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate the number of vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.
52. **(19-04.49 + 06-07.10.d)** The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including by placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
53. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49(a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49(b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT*.

54. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the Secretariat, providing:
- a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record, provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the Secretariat a request for an ICCAT number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided;
 - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.

55. Conditions and procedures referred to in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the *Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to operate in the Convention Area* (Rec. 13-13) (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
56. Without prejudice to paragraph 38 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 49 (a) and (b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.

Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

57. CPCs shall issue special authorizations and/or national fishing licenses to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 45, 49 and 59. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 13**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorization is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

The administrative provisions currently present in Rec. 06-07 related to modification of an existing record and availability by ICCAT are added. In accordance with the definition in paragraph 3.j and 3.n, traps are exclusively considered as a catch gear. Parts of the trap structure where farming related activity are conducted are considered as a farm under this Recommendation. For transparency, the need to report the geographical location of the trap is added in § 59.

58. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.
59. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 16 to 17, the list (including the name of the traps, register number **and geographical location**) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph **57**.

60. **(New, similar to 06-07.9.c)** Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of traps, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of traps at any time such changes occur.
61. **(New, similar to 06-07.9.d)** The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
62. **(19-04.52)** Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to operate in the Convention Area (Rec. 13-13)* (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna

The provisions related to the record of farms currently in Rec 06-07 and 18-13 are imported. As a new measure, it is suggested to prohibit farming activities outside of the geographical coordinates of the farm. Feeding BFT is an aquaculture activity and therefore should be allowed just inside the geographical coordinates of the farm installation. The provision in 06-07.9.e referring to the obligation of farms to comply with the ICCAT measures is not considered necessary for transposition.

63. **(New, in line with 19-04.55)** The Commission shall maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna farms not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for bluefin tuna.
64. **(New, in line with 19-04.56)** Each farm CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their farming plan defined in paragraphs 24 to 27, the list of its authorized bluefin tuna farms, including
- i. the name of the farm
 - ii. register number
 - iii. names and addresses of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - iv. the input and total farming capacity allocated to each farm
 - v. the geographical coordinates of the areas authorized for farming activities, and
 - vi. the status of the farm (active or inactive)
65. **(New)** No farming activities, including feeding for fattening purposes or harvesting of bluefin tuna, shall be authorized outside of the geographical coordinates approved for farming activities.
66. **(06-07.9.c)** Each CPC shall notify the Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of farms at any time such changes occur.
67. **(06-07.9.d)** The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
68. **(06-07.9.g + 06-07.11 + 18-13.4)** Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no bluefin tuna is placed into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record and that the farms do not receive bluefin tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT record of vessels referred to in paragraph 49. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna into and from farms not registered in the ICCAT record of farms.

Information on fishing activities

69. By 31 July each year, or within 7 months of the completion of the fishing season for those CPCs that end their fishing campaign in July, each CPC shall notify the Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:
- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
 - b) the period of authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
 - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorization(s);
 - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
 - e) the total catch outside their period of authorization (bycatch).
70. For all vessels that were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean but that caught bluefin tuna as bycatch, the following information shall be provided to the Secretariat:
- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
 - b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.
71. Each CPC shall notify the Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 69 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Joint fishing operations

72. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorized, each purse seine vessel shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in 73 and 75. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse seine vessels participating in the concerned JFO. Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse seine vessels, as referred to under paragraph 29 of this Recommendation.
73. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:
- the period of authorization of the JFO,
 - the identity of the operators involved,
 - the individual vessels' quotas,
 - the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and - information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the Secretariat at least five working days before the start of the purse seine vessels fishing season as defined in paragraph 29.

In the case of *force majeure*, the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide the Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*. The Secretariat shall compile the information referred under this paragraph provided by CPCs for the review by the Compliance Committee.

74. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
75. No JFOs between purse seine vessels from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than five authorized purse seine vessels may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Part IV: Control measures

Section B - Catches and transshipments

Recording requirements

76. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of **Annex 2**.
77. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of **Annex 2**.

Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators

78. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in **Annex 2** or through the CPCs reporting requirement.
79. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 78 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.
80. Trap operators or their authorized representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna.
81. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 78 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

Designated ports

82. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the Secretariat.
83. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
 - a) established landing and transshipment times;
 - b) established landing and transshipment places; and
 - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 86.
84. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 69 to 70. However, exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.
85. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 69 the Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification of landings

86. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
 - a) estimated time of arrival;
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
 - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only for catches equal or superior to three fish or one ton. They should provide this information in their monitoring control and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14. Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings and harvest operations shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the target percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.

After each trip, Masters of catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the catching vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat

87. CPCs shall send weekly catch reports by gear to the Secretariat. In the case of purse seine vessels and traps, the reports shall be as defined in paragraphs 78, 79 and 80. Total reported catches will be published by the Secretariat on a password protected area of the ICCAT web site during the second week of each month.
88. CPCs shall report to the Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

89. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and where appropriate eBCDs, as well as the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks by species on all landings, transshipment, transfers and caging between the quantities recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant documentation, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transshipment

90. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 82 to 85.
91. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port state's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in Annex 3.
92. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
93. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per Recommendation 16-15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
94. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
95. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Part IV: Control measures

Section C - Observer Programmes

CPC **National** Observer Programme

As agreed in PA2:

- the tasks of the national observer are extended to improve control during the transport phase. The major change is the analysis of the video footage related to further transfer operations, and the communication of discrepancies to the relevant CPC competent authority,

– IMM should discuss the training of national observers.
New provisions, similar to those in force for ICCAT regional observers, are suggested to facilitate the work of the national observers (contact list and access to the vessel communication means).

96. **(19-04.83)** Each CPC shall ensure that national observers, issued with an official identification document, are deployed on vessels flying its flag and on national traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery, on at least the following coverage rates:
- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
 - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
 - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
 - 100% of its towing vessels,
 - 100% of harvesting operations from its traps.
97. **(19-04.83)** CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above shall ensure coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.
98. **(19-04.83)** The CPC national observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:
- a) monitor the compliance of the related fishing vessels and traps with this Recommendation;
 - b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - i. their own estimation of the number and weight of bluefin tuna catches (including bycatch),
 - ii. disposition of the catch, such as retained on board or discarded, dead or alive,
 - iii. area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - iv. measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
 - v. date of catch.
 - c) verify consistency of entries made in the logbook with its own catch estimation;
 - d) **(Agreed in PA2)** when deployed on a donor towing vessel engaged in a further transfer:
 - i. without delay, analyze the video footage of the further transfer concerned, to estimate the number of individuals that have been transferred,
 - ii. communicate immediately by electronic means to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel any discrepancy of more than 10 % between the number of individuals estimated by the national observer and the correspondent number reported on the ITD by the master of the donor towing vessel, and
 - iii. include the results of its analysis in its mission report.
 - e) **(New)** record and report in its mission report all bluefin tuna observed dead or being lost during the transport trip, referencing the apparent reason(s) of the lost fish;
 - f) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures, and
 - g) **(New)** communicate the mission report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel without delay at the end of the towing trip.

To complete the scheme, it is suggested that IMM considers a template for the mission report of national observers.

99. **(19-04.83)** In addition, the **CPC national** observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.
100. **(19-04.83)** In implementing this CPC national observer programme, CPCs shall ensure **that:**
- a) representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on **bluefin tuna** catch, effort, and other **related** scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
 - b) **robust** data collection protocols are **implemented**;
 - c) **(New)** the CPC national observer is provided, before the start of his/her deployment, with a list of contacts within the national competent authority where to report observations;
 - d) **each CPC national observer is** properly trained and **qualified** before deployment;
 - e) **to** the extent practicable, **the** operations of vessels and traps **concerned suffer minimal disruption**.
101. **(19-04.83)** Data and information collected under each CPC's **national** observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, **taking into account** CPC confidentiality requirements.
102. **(19-04.83)** For the scientific aspect of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC, and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. The SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPCs **national** observer programmes.
103. **(New)** **Each CPC shall ensure that the master of the fishing vessel or the trap operator allow the CPC national observer access to the electronic means of communication on board the fishing vessel or on the trap.**

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

[...]

All the obligations and tasks assigned to the ICCAT regional observers are now condensed in Annex 6.

As agreed in PA2, IMM should discuss the need to:

- **train the ROP observers on ICCAT Recommendations**
- **improve the capacity of ROP observers to analyze the stereoscopic camera footages.**

104. **(19-04.84)** The **ICCAT Regional** Observer Programme **referred to in Annex 6** shall be implemented to ensure **an** observer coverage of 100%:
- on all purse seine vessels authorized to fish **for** bluefin tuna;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seine vessels **to transport cages**;
 - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
 - during all transfers from one farm to another **farm**;
 - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;

- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
 - during the release of bluefin tuna from farms.
105. (19-04.84) Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer on board shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.
- [...]
106. (19-04.84) One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations. In cases of *force majeure*, and following confirmation by the farm CPC authority, an ICCAT regional observer could be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of farming operations. However, the farm CPC competent authority shall immediately request the deployment of an additional ICCAT regional observer.
- [...]
- [...]
- [...]
107. (19-04.84 + footnote) As a matter of priority, the ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel, towing vessel, trap or farm, for which their services are required. In addition and to the extent possible, the ICCAT Secretariat and the ROP Consortium shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel, farm or trap CPC. If it is not possible to find foreign observers with proper language skills, the deployment of ICCAT regional observers of the same nationality may be allowed, providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat.
108. (19-04.85 + Annex 6) The tasks to be executed by the ICCAT Regional Observer are detailed in Annex 6.

Section D – Transfers of Live Fish

As agreed in PA2, this section D now refers to all type of transfers, as defined in § 3.h, with the editorial wording adapted accordingly. The adaptations are referred to as “New”.

For clarity and to make the text more easy to read

- the words “*master of the catching or towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of the farm or trap, as appropriate*” are replaced by the “*donor operator*”, as now defined in paragraph 3;
- as requested by PA2, the term “quantity” is replaced by “number” and/or “weight”, according to the provision concerned.

To better illustrate the flow of practical operations and activities, the provisions under this section have been reordered and new subtitles have been added.

As agreed in PA2, the relevant provisions currently in other Recs. have been imported. The text of each provision has been redrafted where necessary to avoid confusion and create coherence with the text of Rec. 19-04.

(New sub-title) General provision

109. **(Agreed in PA2)** This section applies to all transfers as defined in paragraph 3.h of this Recommendation.

110. **(06.07.2f + New)** In accordance with paragraph 14.c of this Recommendation, each CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “**CPC competent authority**”, that shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information for the control of transfers and related transports of bluefin tuna conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPCs whose farms will cage the fish.

111. **(19-04.89.c)** Masters of catching and towing vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their transfer activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2** (logbook).

(New sub-title) Unique Number Assigned to Cages

Panel 2 has agreed that all type of cages used for transport and in farms must be assigned a unique identification number. Because all such cages are owned by farm operators, the related provisions are detailed in section E - Caging, and referred to here as equally applicable.

112. **(Agreed in PA2)** All cages used in transfer operations and associated transports shall be numbered in accordance with the unique numbering system referred to in paragraph 146 in Section E - Caging.

(New sub-title) Prior Transfer notification

In its paragraph 86, Rec. 19-04 currently requests the prior transfer notification to notify a port. There is no rationale for such indication, therefore this element is deleted.

The field donor farm has been added to cover the possibility of transfers between two different cages in the same farm or between two different farms, as contemplated in para 3.h).

113. **(19-04.86 + Agreed in PA2)** Before **the start of a** transfer operation, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates **(hereafter referred to as the “donor operator”)** shall send to its **CPC competent authority** a prior transfer notification indicating, **where applicable:**

- **the number and the estimated weight of bluefin tuna to be transferred.**

- the name of the catching vessel, towing vessel(s), farm or trap, with their respective ICCAT number record,
[...]
- (06-07.2.b) the date and the location of the catch,
- the date and estimated time of transfer,
- the estimated position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place,
[...]
- farm and cage(s) of destination,
[...]
[...]
[...]
- (New) the donor farm and cage number(s), in case of transfers between two different cages in the same farm, or between two different farms.

The obligation for farm operators to maintain a register of all prior notifications made during the fishing season, currently in Rec. 06-07.1 a+b, is considered as not relevant for transposition.

Transfer authorization

114. (19-04.87) Within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall assign and communicate to the donor operator concerned a transfer authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer authorization number shall include the three CPC letters code, four numbers for the year and three letters to indicate either positive (AUT) or negative (NEG) authorization, followed by sequential numbers.
115. (19-04.87) The transfer operation concerned shall not start before its specific transfer authorization number has been assigned and communicated to the donor operator.
116. (19-04.90 + New) The transfer authorization does not prejudice the confirmation of any subsequent transfer or caging operation.

Refusal of a transfer operation and consequent release of bluefin tuna

117. (19-04.88) A transfer operation shall not be authorized by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator if, on receipt of the prior transfer notification, it considers that:
- a) the catching vessel or the trap that has caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
[...]
 - b) (New) the number and weight of fish subject to the transfer has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or the trap,
[...]
 - c) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 57 of this Recommendation,
 - d) the towing vessel declared to transfer and/or transport the fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49.b), or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and/or, any other VMS equivalent tracking device,

[...]

- e) **(New)** the farm of destination is not reported as active in the ICCAT record of farms referred to in paragraph 63 of this Recommendation.

118. **(19-04.88)** In case of refusal, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall

- a) **(New)** where applicable, determine the number and weight of fish for which the transfer is refused;
- b) immediately inform the donor operator of the refusal, as well as the catch, the trap or farm CPC competent authority, if different;
- c) **(New)** where applicable, issue an order to release the fish concerned into the sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

Monitoring of Transfers operations by Video Camera

New provisions are suggested to ensure that the video footages related to transfers

- are present on board the towing vessels and made available in case of inspection at sea
- do accompany the fish up to the destination farm
- are collected by the farm CPC and forwarded, when necessary, to the flag or trap CPC to support investigations
- are effectively used by the flag or trap CPC in the case of an investigation, and kept for a period of time for the purpose of possible investigations or enforcement measures

119. **(19-04.91 + New)** Except for transfers of a cage from a towing vessel to another towing vessel, or from a farm to another farm, the donor operator shall ensure that the transfer operation is monitored by video camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures referred to in **Annex 8**, to determine the number of individuals of bluefin tuna being transferred.

120. **(19-04.91 + 19-04.92 + 19-04.104 + Annex 8.iii + New)** Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that identical copies of the relevant video records are provided without delay by the donor operator:

- a) for the first transfer operation, to the ICCAT regional observer to the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the fishing trip, to the flag or trap CPC competent authority of the donor operator;
- b) for further transfers, to the CPC national observer on board the donor towing vessel, to the master of the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the towing trip, to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel;
- c) for transfers between two different farms, to the ICCAT regional observer, to the receiving towing vessel and to donor farm CPC competent authority, and
- d) if a national or ICCAT inspection authority is present during the transfer operation, the inspector(s) shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record.

121. **(Annex 8.iii)** The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept onboard the donor vessel(s), by the trap(s) or by the farm(s), and remain accessible for control purposes at any time during the fishing campaign.

122. **(19-04.91)** Copies of the video records shall be provided by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

123. **(New)** The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall retain the video footages related to transfers for at least [3] years, and keep them as long as necessary for control and enforcement purposes.

(New subtitle) Voluntary and Control Transfers

To distinguish “voluntary” and “control” transfers, a definition of “voluntary transfer” has been inserted in paragraph 3.

124. **(19-04.92 + Agreed in PA2)** If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards referred to in **Annex 8**, and in particular if its quality and clarity are not sufficient to determine the number of fish being transferred, the donor operator may conduct a voluntary transfer.

125. **(19-04.92 + Agreed in PA2)** If no voluntary transfer has been carried out, or if the voluntary transfer still does not permit to determine the number of fish being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order control transfer(s), which shall be repeated until the quality of the video record allows the estimation of the number of bluefin tuna being transferred. Where the voluntary and/or the control transfer(s) cannot be conducted in the presence of the ICCAT regional observer, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order the control transfer following the procedure set out in paragraph 133.

126. **(New)** The number of fish obtained from the valid voluntary or control transfer shall be used by the donor operator to complete the logbook, the ITD and the relevant sections of the eBCD.

ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD)

As agreed in Panel 2, the template for ITD provided by Turkey has been used to update it to:

- delete the type of product (gutted, whole, other) that does not make sense for transfers
- include estimated weight and be able to distinguish whether the quantities are the result of the first transfer or of a control transfer
- include the individuals dead during the transfer, and
- create a space where the ICCAT regional observer can make its observations, as required by current § 85

New provisions are inserted to report further transfers at all steps, as proposed by Turkey and endorsed by Panel 2.

The administration of the ITD during transport is clarified, in the case of split or use of multiple transport cages, or regarding the availability of the ITD for control purpose.

127. **(19-04.89 + 19-04.93)** At the end of a transfer operation, the donor operator shall complete an ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**. The donor operator shall transmit without delay a copy of the ITD to its CPC competent authority, to the ICCAT regional observer where its presence is mandatory and, where applicable, to the master of the towing vessel or the farm receiving the fish.

128. **(19-04.89.a)** The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall ensure that the ITD form is numbered, using the three letters CPC code, followed by the four numbers showing the year and three sequential numbers, followed by the three letters ITD (CPC- 20**/xxx/ITD).

129. **(19-04.89.b)** The ITD shall accompany the fish transferred up to the destination farm(s) where the fish will be caged:

- a) **(New)** at first transfer, the original of the ITD shall be duplicated by the donor operator when a single catch is transferred from the purse seine net or the trap to more than one transport cage;

- b) **(New)** in the case of a further transfer, the master of the donor towing vessel shall update the ITD by filling the part 3 (further transfers), and hand over a copy of the updated ITD to the receiving towing vessel.

130. **(19-04.89.b + New)** A copy of the ITD shall be kept onboard the donor catching or towing vessel(s), or by the donor trap or the donor farm, and be accessible at any time for control purposes during the duration of the fishing campaign.

(New sub-title) Completion of a transfer operation

Panel 2 has agreed to determine when a transfer operation can be considered as being completed, who has the responsibility to declare it so, and to guarantee that the ICCAT observer is able to conduct its tasks.

As the first transfer is an essential step for the control in the chain, the separation of a towing vessel from the purse seiner or trap may occur just when the transfer operation is completed and the ROP has carried out its tasks. PA2 agreed however that a purse seine vessel should be allowed to leave the transfer ground if after 3 attempts the video footage of the control transfer still is not satisfactory.

A provision to seal the cages concerned to avoid manipulation before the control transfer takes place is introduced.

131. **(19-04.92 + New)** A transfer operation shall be considered as being terminated when

- a) the ITD and the relevant video record are transmitted to the master(s) of the receiving towing vessel(s) and to the ICCAT regional or the CPC national observer, as appropriate,
- b) a copy of the ITD has been sent to the CPC competent authority of the donor operator, and
- c) the transfer section of the eBCD, when applicable, has been completed by the donor operator.

132. **(Agreed in PA2)** The separation of the transport cage from a purse seine, a trap, or a farm cage shall not occur before the transfer operation concerned is completed and the ICCAT regional observer has carried out its tasks.

133. **(Agreed in PA2 + New)** However, if after [3] attempts of voluntary and/or control transfers the quality of the video still does not allow to determine the number of individuals being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator may allow the separation of the donor purse seine vessel, trap or farm from the transport cage(s). In such a case, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order to seal the door(s) of the transport cage(s) concerned, and to carry out the subsequent control transfer(s) at a determined time and place, in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer and/or a flag, trap or farm competent authority.

The sealing operation shall be video recorded by the donor operator, and a copy of the video footage shall be made available to the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seine or on the trap and to the receiving towing vessel, for transmission to the CPC competent authority present at the subsequent control transfer.

Prior to its deployment on a purse seine vessel or trap, the ICCAT regional observers shall be provided by the Consortium with a minimum of six seals. The Consortium shall maintain a record of the seals provided and used.

The video footage of the subsequent control transfer shall start with the unsealing operation, in such a way to allow the identification of the seals and to verify that the seals have not been tampered with.

Investigation by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator

New provisions are suggested:

- to determine how the margin of tolerance of 10% must be calculated (the calculation of this percentage in relation to the quantities reported by the operator or in relation to the quantities verified by the authorities or observer, gives different results),
- to ensure the effectiveness of the related investigations (analysis of video footage, blocking of cages)

- to reflect what is considered to be current practice and in parallel to what is established for caging operations in § 101, an error of more than 10% in the estimates, constitutes a PNC.

134. **(19-04.92 + New)** The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall investigate all cases where

- a) there is more than 10% difference between the number of fish reported in the ITD by the donor operator and the number of fish estimated by the ICCAT regional observer, where its presence is mandatory, or by the CPC national observer, as appropriate, or
- b) when the ICCAT regional observer has not signed the ITD.

135. **(New)** The margin of tolerance of 10 % referred above shall be expressed as a percentage of the donor operator's figures.

136. **(19-04.92 + Agreed in PA2)** Where applicable, the investigation shall include the analysis of all the relevant video footages. Except in cases of *force majeure*, the investigation shall be concluded within 96 hours of its initiation, and in any case prior to the arrival of the transport cage to the destination farm.

137. **(New)** At the initiation of an investigation, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall inform the flag CPC competent authority of the towing vessel(s) concerned about the investigation, and ensure that, until the investigation is concluded, the transport cage(s) concerned are blocked to prevent any transfer of fish from or to the blocked cage.

138. **(New, parallel to 19-04.101)** For all transfer operations where a video is required, a difference equal to or greater than 10%, between the number of bluefin tuna reported by the donor operator in the ITD and the number determined by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator, shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the fishing vessel, trap or farm concerned.

(New sub-title) Fish dead and/or lost during transfer operations and associated transport

139. **(19-04.87 + 06-07.2.b)** The number of fish dead and/or lost during a transfer operation, or during the transport of the fish to the destination farm, shall be reported by the donor operator in accordance with the procedures and template set out in **Annex 11**.

Section E - Caging

As agreed in PA2, the text of each provision of section E has been redrafted for clarity.

To better illustrate the flow of practical operations and activities, the provisions under this section have been re-ordered and new subtitles have been added.

As agreed in PA2, the relevant provisions currently in other Recs. have been imported. The text of each provision has been re-drafted where necessary to avoid confusion and create coherence with the text of Rec. 19-04.

The provision in 06-07.2c obliging the farm CPC to establish a sampling programme to determine the number-at-size is considered as not relevant for transposition in 19-04.

(New sub-title) General provisions

A new provision related to accurate farm schematic plans is added to facilitate and make more effective the control tasks of the authorities and observers.

140. **(06-07.2f)** Each farm CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “**farm CPC competent authority**”. That authority shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPCs competent authorities whose flag vessels or trap have caught the caged tuna.

141. **(19-04.102)** Where the farms are located beyond waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC, the provisions of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for the farm are located.

142. **(06-07.3 + Agreed in PA2)** All CPCs involved in caging related activities shall exchange information and cooperate to ensure that the number and weight of bluefin tuna intended for caging are accurate, consistent with the catch amounts reported by the purse seine catching vessel or trap, and declared in the relevant sections of the eBCD.

143. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that farm operators maintain at all times an accurate schematic plan of their farms, indicating the unique number of all cages and their individual position on the farm. The plan shall be made available at all times to the farm CPC competent authority for control purposes. Any modification to the schematic plan is subject to prior notification to the farm CPC competent authority.

144. **(Agreed in PA2)** The farm CPC competent authority shall retain all the information, documentation and material related to caging activities conducted in farms under its jurisdiction for at least [3] years, and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

(New sub-title) Unique Number Assigned to Cages

As agreed in PA2:

- all cages used for transport and farm purposes should be subject to a unique numbering system,
- technical specifications must be inserted to avoid manipulation of the cage number, and ensure inviolability, and visibility and legibility of the number in any circumstances for control and surveillance purposes.

145. **(19-04.86 + 06-07.2.a + Agreed in PA2)** Before the start of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, the farm CPC competent authority shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms under its jurisdiction, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.

146. **(19-04.86 + Agreed in PA2 + New)** Each cage shall be identified with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code, followed by three numbers. The unique cage numbers shall be stamped or painted on two opposite sides of the ring of the cage and above the water line, in a color contrasting with the background on which they are painted or stamped, and must be visible and legible at any time for control purposes.

147. **(New)** The height of the letters and numbers shall be at least 20 centimeters with a line thickness of at least 4 centimeters.

148. **(New)** Alternative methods to mark the unique number on the cage are allowed, providing they offer the same guarantee of visibility, legibility and inviolability.

149. **(New)** Where a transport cage is turned into a farm cage, the numbering of farm cages in the relevant schematic farming plan shall be adapted accordingly.

Caging authorization

Contrary to what is currently agreed in § 95 of Rec. 19-04, the responsibility of the catching CPC to modify and validate the eBCD sections makes that a farm CPC should not be able to authorize a caging operation without the effective consent of the correspondent flag or trap CPC. It is therefore suggested:

- to oblige the flag or trap CPC to respond without delay to a request for a caging authorization
- to remove the possibility for a farm CPC to authorize a caging operation in the absence of confirmation

In case of refusal, the flag or trap CPC should specifically inform the farm CPC of the reason for the refusal.

PA2 agreed to insert a provision obliging the release of fish if after 1 month if the caging authorization has not been delivered and avoid that BFT can be kept indefinitely in transport cages.

The previous 24 hours deadline has been extended to 3 working days to ensure that the catching CPC responds in all cases to the request for caging.

150. **(19-04.95)** Each caging operation is subject to a caging authorization issued by the farm CPC competent authority. The following procedure shall apply:

- a) **(New)** the farm operator requests a caging authorization to the farm CPC competent authority, specifying in particular the number and weight (as referred to in the ITD) of fish to be caged. This request shall be accompanied by:
 - i. the relevant ITDs;
 - ii. **(19-04.96)** the eBCD(s) reference concerned, as confirmed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority;
 - iii. all the reports of fish dead or lost during transport, duly recorded in accordance with **Annex 11**.
- b) **(19-04.95 + Agreed in PA2)** the farm CPC competent authority notifies the information under sub a) to the relevant catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies), and asks for confirmation that the caging operation is authorized;
- c) **(19-04.95 + New)** Within 3 working days, the catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies) notifies the farm CPC competent authority that the caging operation concerned can be authorized or must be refused. In the case of refusal the flag or trap CPC competent authority shall specify the reason(s) for the refusal.

d) **(19-04.95 + New)** the farm CPC competent authority issues the caging authorization immediately after receipt of the confirmation by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned. The caging operation shall not be authorized by the farm CPC competent authority in the absence of this confirmation.

151. **(19-04.95 + 19-04.96)** Without prejudging the sovereign rights of the farm CPC, no caging shall be authorized if the complete set of documentation required under paragraph 150 sub a) does not accompany the fish subject to the caging authorization.

152. **(19-04.92)** Pending the results of the investigation referred to in paragraph 174 conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority, the caging operation shall not be authorized and the relevant catch and transfer sections of the eBCD shall not be validated.

153. **(Agreed in PA2)** If the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization by the farm operator, the farm CPC competent authority shall order and proceed to the release of all the fish contained in the transport cage concerned, in accordance with Annex 10. The farm CPC competent authority shall accordingly inform without delay the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned, and the ICCAT Secretariat.

Refusal of a caging authorization by the flag or trap CPC

154. **(19-04.95 + New)** If, on receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 150 sub a), the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority considers that:

a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had insufficient quota to cover the bluefin tuna to be caged,

b) the quantity of fish to be caged has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, and has not been taken into account for the calculation of any quota uptake that may be applicable,

c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 57 of this Recommendation,

it shall determine the number of fish for which caging is refused and order without delay the farm CPC competent authority to proceed to the seizure of the fish concerned and its immediate release into the sea, in accordance with Annex 10.

Caging operations

As agreed in Panel 2, the safety distance has been extended from 0.5 to 1 mile. The mention of "anchoring" the cage has been eliminated, since in practice many transport cages are not anchored at all. New provisions are suggested to limit the risk of illegal caging operations or unauthorized movements of fish.

155. **(19-04.94 + Agreed in PA2)** At arrival of the towing vessel in the vicinity of the farm, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:

a) the transport cage concerned is maintained at a distance of minimum 1 nautical mile from any facility of the farm until the farm CPC competent authority is physically present; and

b) the position and activity of the relevant towing vessels is monitored at any time.

156. **(New)** No caging operation shall start:

- a) before it has been duly authorized by the farm CPC competent authority;
- b) without the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and the ICCAT regional observer;
- c) before the relevant sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority(ies).

157. **(New)** Farm cages containing bluefin tuna shall be sealed by the farm CPC control authority at all times. Unsealing will only be possible in the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and following its authorization. The farm CPC control authority shall establish protocols for the sealing of farm cages, ensuring the use of official seals and that these seals are placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without the seals being broken.

158. **(18-13.5)** Farm CPCs shall ensure that the bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages, or series of cages, and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC origin. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna has been caught in the context of a joint fishing operation (JFO), the catches concerned are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of the JFOs.

159. **(19-04.95)** All the caging operations shall be completed before 22 August of each year, unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons, including *force majeure*. Those reasons shall be documented and reported in the caging report referred to in paragraph 186. In any case, no bluefin tuna shall be caged after 7 September.

Recording of the caging operation by control cameras

160. **(19-04.97 + 19-04.99)** The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that each caging operation of bluefin tuna in its farms is recorded by the farm operator using stereoscopic camera, and all video footages do comply with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**.

161. **(New)** This requirement is without prejudice to the use of conventional cameras to support the verification of the number of individuals.

162. **(19-04.99)** Alternative methods to the use of stereoscopic camera are allowed, providing they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy and have been previously endorsed by the Commission after analysis by the SCRS.

163. **(New)** If the quality of the control camera video footage used to determine the number and/or weight of the bluefin tuna caged does not comply with the minimum standards of **Annex 8**, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the repetition of the caging operation concerned until the determination of the number and weight is possible. The repetition of the caging operation shall not be subject to a new caging authorization.

164. **(New)** In the case of repetition of the caging operation, the donor farm cage shall be blocked to avoid manipulation prior to the new caging operation, and the receiving farm cage(s) shall be empty.

165. **(19-04.99 + 19-04.104)** At the completion of the caging operation, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to the stereoscopic camera video footage(s), and is allowed to make a copy if it intends to complete its analysis task at another time or place.

As suggested by Japan in PA2, a reference is made to the use of Artificial Intelligence for the analysis of video footages. The SCRS is encouraged to participate to the necessary trials.

166. **(Agreed in PA2)** CPCs with active bluefin tuna farms and the SCRS are encouraged to participate in trials using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the analysis of the stereoscopic camera footages, to automate the determination of the number and/or weight of caged tuna, with the scope to reduce the workload and avoid possible human bias.

As agreed in PA2, the role and training of ROP observers on stereoscopic camera footages should be discussed in an IMM/Consortium bilateral meeting.

(New sub-title) Fish dead and/or lost during a caging operation

167. The fish dead and/or lost during a caging operation shall be reported by the farm operator, in accordance with the procedures and template set out in Annex 11.

Caging declaration

The text has been revised in particular

- to clarify the process to fill the caging declaration
- to end the confusion between the caging declaration and the subsequent caging report

A template for caging declarations has been created as Annex 12. The new template includes in particular:

- a field to report the mortality of fish in the caging operation itself and in the previous transport operations, in line with Rec. 06-07
- the ROP's estimates of number of individuals

It is suggested that PA2 evaluates the need to fill a caging declaration in parallel to the compulsory use of the eBCD system.

168. **(06-07.2b + New)** Each farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that, for each caging operation, the farm operator submits a caging declaration within [1 week] after the actual caging operation has taken place, using the form set out in Annex 12.

Analysis of the stereoscopic video footages by the farm CPC competent authority

PA2 agreed to clarify and redraft the provisions related to investigations and the roles of the various parties involved referred to in the current § 98 to 101.

The results of the stereoscopic camera are one of the key points in the chain, since the amounts that will be deducted from the quotas are taken from it. It is therefore essential that these quantities are determined directly by the CPC authorities. In this regard, the text proposes/clarifies that the farm CPC competent authority is responsible for the determination of the official number and weight figures at caging.

To determine such official caging figures, the farm CPC analyses each of the SC video footage.

Once the farm CPC has determined the caging figures, it shall:

- communicate the caging figures to the catching flag/trap CPC for an eventual investigation in relation to their quota uptake,
- use the official caging figures to fill the caging sections of the eBCD.

169. **(19-04.97 + 19-04.98 + New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator. To carry out this analysis, the authorities shall follow the procedures set out in point 1 of Annex 9.

170. **(19-04.98 + New)** When there is a difference of more than 10% between the number and/or the weight determined by the farm CPC competent authority and the correspondent figures reported in the caging declaration, the farm CPC competent authority shall launch an investigation to identify the reasons of the discrepancy, and make the eventual adjustment of the number and/or weight of fish that has been caged.

171. **(New)** The margin of tolerance of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the farm operator's figures.

(New sub-title) Communication of caging results to the catching flag or trap CPC

172. **(19-04.99 + 19-04.102 + New)** After the completion of a caging operation or, in the case of a JFO, of the last caging operation associated to that JFO, the farm CPC competent authority shall send to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority the information referred to in **Annex 9**, point 2 under a and b.

173. **(19-04.99 + New)** Each farm CPC competent authority shall submit the procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera programme (or alternative methods) to the SCRS by 15 September annually. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission at the next Annual meeting.

Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority

This investigation is considered to be essential because it allows to assure the coherence of the quantities reported as caught and transferred, with the quantities verified at caging.

This investigation is conducted in relation to the number of fish by the flag or trap CPC after receipt from the farm CPC of the caging results.

Without prejudice to Annex 9 and eventual compensations at JFO level, the text now clarifies that in case of investigation:

- the flag or trap CPC must investigate where the number of fish caged is lower than what is caught. Such investigation must be done in due collaboration with the CPCs involved in the movement of fish after the first transfer.
- the relevant CPCs are obliged to collaborate with the flag or trap CPC during the investigation, and to communicate the results of their own relevant analysis.
- at the end of the investigation, the number of missing fish determined as being caught (fish determined to be caught that have not been caged) is converted into weight by applying the average individual weight determined by the farm CPC.
- after the investigation, the missing fish can be considered by the flag or trap CPC as lost during transport.

To cope with the impossibility to launch an investigation for all cases of discrepancy between the caging figures communicated by the farm CPC and those provided by the catch operator at first transfer, as currently referred to in 19-04.99, a margin of tolerance of 10% is inserted.

Similarly, to cope with the impossibility to conclude the investigation within 10 days, the deadline is extended to 2 months.

The establishment in an Annex of protocols or Terms of Reference, would help ensure the effectiveness of the investigation when it involves more than one CPC.

174. **(19-04.99 + New)** When, for a single catching operation, the number of bluefin tuna being caged communicated by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 172, differ by [10%] or more from those reported in the ITD as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall initiate an investigation to determine the accurate catch weight that shall be deducted from the national bluefin tuna quota, in accordance with paragraphs 180 to 182 (quota uptake).

175. **(New)** In support of this investigation, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall request all the necessary information and the results of the relevant video footage analysis conducted in accordance with this Recommendation by the flag and farm CPCs competent authority(ies) that have been involved in the transport and the caging operation concerned.

176. **(06-07.2f + Agreed in PA2)** All CPCs competent authorities, including those whose vessels have been involved in the transport of the fish, shall cooperate actively, including through the exchange of all information and documentation at their disposal.

177. **(19-04.99 + New)** The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall conclude the investigation within [1 month] from the communication of the caging results by the competent authority of the farm CPC.

178. **(19-04.101 with “quantities” replaced by “number and/or weight” + New)** For each single catching operation, a difference equal to or greater than 10% between the number and/or weight of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel or trap concerned and the number and/or weight determined by catching flag or trap CPC competent authority as result of the investigation shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the vessel or trap concerned.

179. **(New)** The margin of tolerance of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the master figures and shall be applicable at the level of individual caging operation.

(New sub-title) Quota uptake

180. **(New)** The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall determine the weight of bluefin tuna to be deducted from its national quota in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9** points 2 and 3, taking into account the fish reported dead and the effective releases.

181. **(New)** For those cases where an investigation has been conducted by the flag or trap CPC competent authority, the weight to be deducted from the national quota shall be determined by applying the average individual weight at caging communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, to the number determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.

182. **(New)** Notwithstanding paragraph 181, after the consultation of the CPC competent authority(ies) involved in the transport of fish up to the destination farm, the authorities may decide not to deduct from the national quota the fish established as lost in the investigation, when the losses have been duly documented by the operator and the relevant information has been communicated to its competent authorities immediately after the event.

(New sub-title) Releases associated to caging operations

183. **(New)** The determination of the fish to be released shall be done in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9** point 3.

184. **(19-04.88+ New)** If the weight of bluefin tuna being caged is in excess of what had been declared as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall issue a release order and communicate without delay to the farm CPC competent authority concerned. The release order shall follow the provisions of **Annex 9** point 3, taking into account the possible compensation at the JFO level in accordance with **Annex 9** point 4.

185. **(19-04.99)** The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with the protocol set out in **Annex 10**.

Caging report

The caging report is the document that comes after all the procedures that are associated to a caging operation, eventually at JFO level, and reflects the actual figures related to the caging operation(s) considered. The content of the caging report is detailed in Annex 9, point 2.

186. **(19-04. 102 + Annex 9 2.ii)** Within 15 days after the completion of the release orders, the farm CPC competent authority shall issue a caging report for each single caging operation, or in the case of a JFO for the complete set of caging operations related to that JFO. The caging report shall include the information referred to in **Annex 9** point 2, and be communicated to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority and to the ICCAT Secretariat.

(New section) Harvesting

187. **(New)** No harvesting operation shall be authorized before the results of the investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority are available, and the associated releases have been conducted.

188. **(New)** However, the farm CPC authority may authorize the slaughtering of individuals of bluefin tuna which are close to dying. The trade of these individuals shall not be authorized until the harvesting operations are allowed.

The development of a new section G dedicated to harvesting could be suggested for discussion at IMM level.

Section F - Control activities in farms after caging

Intra-farm transfers

189. **(19-04.100)** The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one cage to another within the same farm shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm CPC competent authority. Each transfer shall be recorded by control cameras to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred. The video footage shall comply with the minimum standards as laid down in **Annex 8**. The farm CPC competent authority shall monitor and control those transfers, including ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is recorded in the eBCD system.

190. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall retain the video footages from intra-farm transfers undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of [3] years and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

As agreed in PA2, IMM should discuss the possibility to allow grouping bluefin tuna in intra-farm transfers and, if appropriate, the relationship with the eBCD system to extend data extraction so to include intra-farm data.

Carry-over

The text emphasizes the provisions currently detailed in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Rec. 19-04. Reinforce control system and 103 and 107 are compulsory to all farm activities

The “carry-over” (CO) now refers to the fish still present in the farm at the beginning of the next season. Consequently, the concept of “bulk harvest” becomes useless and is deleted to avoid confusion.

Since all internal transfers are recorded by control camera, there is no need to refer to “alternative method” and to “traceability” anymore.

As agreed in PA2, IMM should further discuss the modalities for the carry-over assessment. In particular, to determine

- if the weight is a pertinent element for the assessment,
- if the fish from different cages should be maintained in separate cages or can be grouped in a single one,
- if a functionality in the eBCD system must be developed.

Notes:

- traceability may be considered again if IMM agrees on regrouping the CO fish in a single cage
- compensation in number of CO fish between cages in a single farm is allowed, but if after the assessment operation the number of carried-over fish in that farm exceeds the number in eBCD, the extra fish is immediately released. Compensation between farms of a single CPC is not allowed.
- the calculation of weight at CO needs a specific algorithm, since the length-to-weight ratio for this fish is different from the one at caging. The determination of this specific algorithm

applicable at the CO assessment step is essential to estimate the related growth rates (growth rates are only given for periods of 1 year or less so they could not be applied to fish that have been on the farm longer).

- the CO declaration in Rec. 18-07 refers to the weight of fish and should be revisited to reflect the procedure to establish the weight (new algorithm length vs weight).

191. **(19-04.8 + Agreed in PA2)** The carry-over within a farm of non-harvested live bluefin tuna from a previous year's catch is not authorized unless a reinforced control system is implemented and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat as an integral part of the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.

192. **(18-13.8)** The live bluefin tuna carried-over shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm, on the basis of the catch year.

193. **(19-04.9 + 18-13.7 + 18-13.8)** Farm CPCs shall task their enforcement authorities to thoroughly assess the live bluefin tuna carried-over in the farms under their jurisdiction prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons. To this end, the live bluefin tuna concerned shall be placed in separate cages in the farm and monitored using stereoscopic camera systems, or alternative methods providing they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy, to determine the number and the weight of fish transferred.

194. **(19-04.9 + New)** By way of derogation, the carry-over of bluefin tuna from years and cages where no harvest occurred shall be controlled annually by applying the random control procedure referred to in paragraphs 201 to 209.

195. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the stereoscopic video footage from the carry-over assessment transfers comply with the relevant requirements of **Annex 8**, and the determination of the number and weight of carried-over fish is in accordance with **Annex 9** point 1 of this Recommendation.

196. **(Agreed in PA2)** The determination of the weight of the carried-over fish shall not apply until the SCRS has developed an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish.

197. **(Agreed in PA2)** A difference by number of live bluefin tuna between the number resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed.

198. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall retain the video footages and all the relevant documentation from carry-over assessments undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of [3] years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

Carry-over declaration

199. **(18-13.7)** Farm CPCs shall complete and transmit an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation. Such declaration shall include:

- Flag CPC;
- Name and ICCAT number of the farm;
- Year of catch;
- References of the eBCD corresponding to the catches carried over;
- Cage numbers;
- Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish carried over;
- Average weight;
- Information on harvested and released quantities (expressed in kg), when completed;
- (New)** Information of each of the carry-over assessment operations: date and cage numbers;
- Information on previous intra-farm transfers, when applicable.

200. **(New)** The stereoscopic camera report, when applicable, shall be attached to the carry-over declaration.

Random controls

PA2 agreed to develop procedures for random controls, in particular to ensure the cooperation of operators and a follow up in case of discrepancies.

A prior notification to the operator is introduced, to ensure that the farm operator provides all necessary material (empty cages, divers, ...).

As in the case of carry-over assessment, PA2 decided that compensations between cages are not allowed, and the discrepancies must be followed up (enforcement measures, modification eBCD and releases if necessary).

201. **(New + 1st sentence of 103)** The farm CPC competent authority shall carry out random controls in farms under their jurisdiction. Random controls shall take place in farms between the time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other farm cage(s) in order that the number of bluefin tuna individuals can be counted by way of control video record(s).

202. **(19-04.103 + New)** Each farm CPC shall set a minimum number of random controls to be performed on each farm under its sovereignty. The number of random controls shall cover at least 10% of the number of cages in each farm, always involving at least one control per farm and rounded up where needed. The planning for random controls to be carried out shall be reflected in the CPC control plan referred to under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation.

203. **(New)** The farm(s) concerned may be informed by the farm CPC competent authority with a maximum notice of two calendar days that random control(s) shall take place. The selected cage(s) shall only be communicated by the farm CPC competent authority to the farm operator upon arrival at the farm concerned.

204. **(New)** Farm operators shall ensure that all means are in place in order that random controls can be carried out by the farm CPC competent authority at any time after prior notice, and in any cage on the farm.

205. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall strive to reduce the timeframe between the ordering of the random controls and when the control operations is carried out.

206. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that all necessary measures are taken so that the contents of the cage are secured and the operator does not have the possibility to manipulate the cages concerned until the random control takes place.

207. **(New)** Following the random control, a difference between the number of bluefin tuna determined by the random controls and the number expected to be present in the cage shall be duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release for the corresponding number(s). The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed.

208. **(New)** The farm CPC competent authority shall retain video footages from random controls undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of [3] years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

209. **(19-04.103)** The results of the random controls shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in April of the following year.

The insertion of a new sub-section dedicated to transfers between two different farms could be suggested for discussion at IMM level with the following requirements.

Inter-farm transfers:

- **The authorization of both farm CPC authorities (donor and receiving farms);**
- **The operation would be constituted by a transfer (as per §3) and a subsequent caging operation;**
- **Both operations should comply with the relevant provisions for transfer and caging;**
- **The ICCAT observer should be present during both phases, transfer and caging;**
- **Distinguish what is moving: the farm cage itself, or its content (or part of it) using a transport cage.**

Section G – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

210. **(19-04.105)** CPCs shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m referred to in paragraph 49 of this Recommendation, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 18-10)*.

211. **(Agreed in PA2)** Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall be equipped with an operational VMS irrespective of their length.

212. **(19-04.105)** The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized fishing vessel subject to VMS under this Recommendation shall:

- a) start at least 5 days before and continue at least 5 days after their period of authorization, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC competent authority;
- b) **(19-04.105)** not be interrupted when the vessel is in port, for control purposes, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

213. **(19-04.105)** The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform the flag CPC of any delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions, and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

214. **(19-04.88 + Agreed in PA2)** Referring to towing vessels during the transport of bluefin tuna to a farm, in the event of a technical failure of its VMS, the towing vessel concerned shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS. If no other towing vessel is available, a new operative VMS system shall be installed on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case of *force majeure*, that should be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. In the meantime, the master or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed, communicate to the control authorities of the flag CPC every 4 hours the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the towing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

[...]
[...]
[...]

Use of VMS data for control and inspection purposes

[...]
[...]
[...]

215. **(19-04.105)** The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and to the SCRS, at its request.

216. **(19-04.105)** On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 220 to 223 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format*

and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 07-08).



As agreed in PA2, IMM should discuss

- to increase the frequency transmission of VMS positions from 2 to 1 hour, for towing vessels,
- increasing the frequency of reporting in case of technical failure of VMS from every 4 hours to 2 hours,
- to install a tracking system for transport cages.

Part IV: Control measures

Section II - Enforcement

Enforcement

217. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this Recommendation.

The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law in such way to make sure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

218. The farm CPC shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law, that the farm does not comply with the provisions of this Recommendation.

Depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law such measures may include, in particular, suspension of the authorization or withdrawal from the ICCAT Record of Bluefin Tuna Farming Facilities established in accordance with Rec. 06-07 and/or fines.

As agreed in PA2, the EU will present a list of serious infringements regarding live BFT activities, including market, for discussion at the next IMM/PWG meeting.

Part IV: Control measures

Section I - Market measures

Market measures

219. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* (Rec. 18-13) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing*

Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the eBCD System (Rec. 18-12) on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.

- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 4 are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

Part V: ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

220. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each Contracting Party agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
221. The Scheme referred to in paragraph **220** shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Res. 00-20).
222. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14.
223. In cases where enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail in their territory, in their jurisdictional waters and on board their inspection platform.

Part VI: Final provisions

Availability of data to the SCRS

224. The **ICCAT** Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with this Recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Safeguards

225. When, as a result of a scientific evaluation, the goal of maintaining the biomass around $B_{0.1}$ (to be achieved by fishing at or less than $F_{0.1}$) is not achieved and the objectives of this plan are in danger, the SCRS shall provide new advice on the TAC for the following year.

Review clause

226. For the first time in 2020 and, in any case, after the stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that confirms the full recovery of the stock, the Commission following the scientific advice provided by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or on its possible revision.

227. Notwithstanding paragraph 226, ICCAT will hold an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 each year in March in order to:

- a) review, and if appropriate, endorse the annual fishing, capacity management, farming and inspection plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation;
- b) discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and, as appropriate, propose draft amendments to it for consideration at the Annual meeting.

228. Potential additional measures to further strengthen the control and traceability measures for bluefin tuna shall be discussed at the Working Group meeting of Panel 2 established pursuant to Resolution 19-15.

Evaluation

229. All CPCs shall submit at the request of the ICCAT Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate biennially a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna

230. The provisions in this Recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs concerned shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the following year from the CPC quota in accordance with para 12.

Repeals

231. This Recommendation:

- repeals and replaces Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna In The Eastern Atlantic and The Mediterranean (Rec. 19-04);
- repeals Recommendation by ICCAT on bluefin tuna farming (Rec. 06-07);
- repeals paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 of Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme (Rec. 18-13).

Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 35

1. CPCs shall limit:
 - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
 - The maximum number of its small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of its vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
 - The maximum number of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49 (a) of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, hand liners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number, which shall be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook requirements

A - Catching Vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (by midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number, international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment
2. Products
 1. species and presentation by FAO code
 2. number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
 - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
 - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO.
 - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in a).

B - Towing Vessels

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessels shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C - Auxiliary Vessels

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D - Processing Vessels

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transhipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transhipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transhipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transhipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. Document

ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	Fishing Vessel	Final destination:
Name of vessel and radio call sign:	Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Port:
Flag:	Flag:	Country:
Flag CPC authorization No.	Flag CPC authorization No.	State:
National Register No.	National Register No.	
ICCAT Register No.	ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.	External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.	

Departure	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return					From: To:	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.							

TRANSHIPMENT 30

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit | | Kg.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Lat.	Sea Long.	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____ Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____ Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____ Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____ Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____ Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

ICCAT Transfer Declaration

Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration	
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: [...] ICCAT Register no. External identification: Transfer authorization no. Fishing logbook no. JFO no. eBCD no.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	1st Tug vessel name: [...]	Name 1st destination farm:
		Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	ICCAT Register no: [...]
		2nd Tug vessel name: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name 2nd destination farm: ICCAT Register no: First cage number: Second cage number:
2 - FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION			
Date: __/__/_____		Place or position: Port:	Lat: Long:
N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg) in first cage First transfer: Control transfer 1:	N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg) in second cage First transfer: Control transfer 1:	Species: Dead during the first transfer	
[...] Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature 1st receiver vessel: 2nd receiver vessel:	Observer Names, ICCAT No. and signature:	
[...] Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:	
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS			
Date: __/__/_____		Place or position: Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Transfer authorization no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg):		Number of BFT dead or lost during transfer:	
Date: __/__/_____		Place or position: Port:	Lat: Long:

Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Transfer authorization no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg)		Number of BFT dead or lost during transfer	
Date: __/__/----		Place or position: Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Transfer authorization no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg)		Number of BFT dead or lost during transfer	

[...]
[...]
[...]

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels to deploy an ICCAT regional observer, as referred to in paragraph 104.
2. The ICCAT Secretariat shall appoint the ICCAT regional observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT regional observer programme. An ICCAT regional observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the ICCAT regional observer and the master of the vessel, farm, or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Qualification of the ICCAT regional observers

5. The ICCAT regional observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - (Agreed in PA2) the ability to analyze the video record footages;
 - to the extent possible, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, the vessel, the farm or the trap observed.

Obligations of the ICCAT regional observer

6. The ICCAT regional observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. (ex point 8) The ICCAT regional observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations conducted by the purse seine vessels, the farms and the traps, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition to be appointed as an ICCAT regional observer.

8. **(ex point 9)** The ICCAT regional observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the ICCAT regional observer is assigned.

9. **(ex point 10)** The ICCAT regional observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the ICCAT regional observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel, farm and trap personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this ICCAT regional observer Programme.

(New sub-title) Tasks of the ICCAT Regional observer

10. **(19-04.92 + Annex 6)** The ICCAT regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

(New sub-title) General tasks

- i. **(19-04.85)** observe and monitor compliance of the bluefin tuna fishing and farming operations with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- ii. **(19-04.85 + 19-04 Annex b.v + 19-04 Annex 6.7.a.x)** carry out such scientific work, such as collecting samples or Task II data, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
[...]
[...]
[...]
- iii. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.e)** exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission;
- iv. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.v)** sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
[...]
[...]
[...]
- v. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.ix)** verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
[...]
[...]

(New sub-title) As regards purse seine vessels or trap catching activity

- vi. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.ii)** record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
- vii. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.iii)** observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;

(New sub-title) As regards transfers from a purse seine vessel or trap to transport cage(s)

- viii. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.vi)** record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
- ix. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.vii)** verify the position of the vessel when engaged in a transfer;
- x. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.viii + 19-04.85)** observe and analyze all the video footages related to the transfer operation concerned;
- xi. **(19-04.85)** estimate the number of fish transferred;
- xii. **(19-04 Annex 6.7.a.iv)** issue a daily report of the transfer activities of purse seine vessels;
- xiii. **(19-04.85)** record and report upon the result of such analysis;

xiv. (19-04.85) verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization referred to in paragraph 113, in the ITD referred to in paragraph 127, and in the eBCD;

xv. (19-04.93) verify that the ITD referred to in paragraph 127 is transmitted to the master of the towing vessel or to the representative of the farm or trap;

In line with the new paragraph introduced in the sub/section "Completion of a transfer operation", the separation of a towing vessel from the purse seiner or trap may occur just when the transfer operation is completed and the ROP has carried out its tasks.

A new paragraph has been inserted to complete the scheme proposed under the sub section mentioned above and to allow the use and control of official seals in case of control transfers.

xvi. (Agreed in PA2) be present until the ITD is transmitted from the purse seine vessel or the trap to the master(s) of the correspondent towing vessel(s), in accordance with paragraph 127;

xvii. (New) in relation to control transfers, verify the seals identification number and ensure that the seals are placed in such a way to prevent the opening of the doors without the seals being broken;

(New sub-title) As regards caging operations

xviii. (19-04.85 + New) Review the camera video footages at caging to estimate the number of fish caged, in due time to allow the farm operator to complete the related caging declaration;

(New sub-title) (19-04-85 + Annex 6.7) As regards verification of data

xix. (19-04 Annex 6.7.b.i) verify the data contained in the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, including through the analysis of video records;

xx. (19-04 Annex 6.7.b.ii) certify the data contained in the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD;

xxi. (19-04 Annex 6.7.a.iv + 19-04 Annex 6.7.b.iii) issue a daily report of the purse seine vessels', farms' and traps' transfer activities;

xxii. (19-04.85 + 19-04.93 + Annex 6.7.b.iv) sign the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, with clearly written name and ICCAT number, when the relevant operation is in accordance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures and the information contained within these documents is consistent with his/her observations. In case of disagreement, the ICCAT regional observer shall indicate his/her presence on the relevant ITD and caging declarations and/or the eBCD concerned, and the reasons of disagreement, quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that in his/her view has(ve) not been respected;

(New sub-title) As regards releases

xxiii. (New) as regards releases, observe and report on the prior segregation of fish and the subsequent release operation, in accordance with the release protocol in Annex 10;

(New sub-title) As regards reporting

- xxiv. (19-04 Annex 6.7.b.vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS;
- xxv. (19-04 Annex 6.7.c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
- xxvi. (19-04 Annex 6.7.d + New) submit the aforementioned general report to Consortium observer implementing company, for subsequent transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;

[...]
[...]
[...]

- xxvii. (19-04 Annex 6.7.a.i) in cases where the ICCAT regional observer observes a potential non-compliance with an ICCAT Recommendation, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the Consortium observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag, trap or farm CPC competent authority concerned, and to the ICCAT Secretariat. For this purpose, the Consortium observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated.

Obligations of the flag, trap and farm CPCs

11. The flag, farm and trap CPCs shall ensure that, notably, the ICCAT regional observer:

- a) is allowed access to the purse seine vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
- b) upon request and in order to carry out their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme, is allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned:
 - i. Satellite navigation equipment,
 - ii. Radar display screens when in use,
 - iii. Electronic means of communication;

[...]

- c) is provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;

[...]

- d) is provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and

12. (19-04 Annex 6.11.e) The flag, trap and farm CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an ICCAT regional observer in the performance of his/her duties.

13. The ICCAT Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag, trap or farm CPC, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The ICCAT Secretariat shall submit the ICCAT regional observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

[...]

Fees and organization

14. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and the purse seine vessel owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the Program, and paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;

No ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap or farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
 - q) transshipment at sea.

2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 18-08), taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the Commission and issued by the Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master¹ of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations,

¹ Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he/she may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.

12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT Recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this Recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Rec. 19-09 and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
 - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
 - b) the arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16.
 - a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
 - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's

Minimum standards for video recording procedures applicable to transfer, caging and/or release operations

[...]
[...]
[...]

Since in the current Annex 8 the provisions related to transfers and caging operations are almost identical, it is suggested to condense the text into a single section, as feasible.

As agreed in PA2, the minimum standards now apply to all types of transfers.

1. (Agreed in PA2) Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall ensure that the following procedures apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and/or release operations referred to in this Recommendation:
 - a) (Annex 8.iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, where requested, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorization number or release order shall be displayed;
 - b) (Annex 8.ex.v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
 - c) (Annex 8.vii) The video record shall be continuous without any interruptions and cuts, and cover the entire transfer, caging and/or release operation;
 - d) (Annex 8.vi) Before the start of the transfer, caging and/or release operation, the video record shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and, for transfers and caging operations, show whether the receiving and donor cage(s) already contain bluefin tuna;
 - e) (Annex 8.viii) The video record shall be of sufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released;
 - f) (Annex 8.ii) The original video record shall be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization to operate;
 - g) (Annex 8.iii + 19-04.104) The distribution of copies of the video records shall follow the provisions referred to in paragraph 120 of this Recommendation;
 - h) (Annex 8.i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the ICCAT regional and/or CPC national observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer, caging and/or release operation. The ICCAT regional observer shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
2. (19-04.104) Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

(New sub-title) Insufficient quality of the video record

3. If the video record is of insufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released, the operation shall be repeated until the quality of the video is adequate, following the procedures below:

- a) **(Annex 8.transfers.ix)** for a transfer, the transfer operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 124 to 126 of this Recommendation [voluntary and control transfers].

For those **transfers** where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the **voluntary** transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer;

[...]

[...]

[...]

- b) **(Annex 8.caging operations.ix)** for a caging operation, the caging operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph yy of this Recommendation (repetition of a caging operation).

For those cases when the origin of the fish is a purse seine vessel, the new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty;

- c) **(New)** for releases, the segregation of the fish to be released shall be repeated in accordance with the release Protocol set out in Annex 10 of this Recommendation.

Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

1. Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

(19-04.Annex 9.point 1) The use of **stereoscopic** cameras systems in the context of caging operations shall be conducted in accordance with the following **provisions**:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the **number** of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert **the** fork **length of a single fish** into **weight**, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic **individual** length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. **The** margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the **stereoscopic** camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). **The** SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.

[...]
[...]
[...]

The text of previous point 1.vii is deleted because it repeats provisions already in the Recommendation.

The existing point 2.i is moved below under a new point 4 “Provisions applicable to JFO and traps”.

A separate section sub-titled “Caging results” is created where the information to be communicated by the farm CPC to the flag or trap CPC is detailed.

The “Caging report” now under point 3 contains all the set of information related to the caging operation concerned (at single or JFO level).

The “Use of the stereo camera system outcome” is now under point 4.

2. Caging results

At the completion of a caging operation, or the complete set of caging operations under a JFO, the farm CPC competent authority shall communicate the following information to the catching flag or trap competent authority:

a) **(ii.1)** a technical report related to the stereoscopic system, which shall contain in particular:

- general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
- sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution;

- **(ii.3)** the algorithm used to convert length into weight;

- **(ii.3)** the margin of error of the stereoscopic camera system used;

b) **(ii.3)** a factual report related to the caging activity, which shall contain in particular:

The incorporation of two new documents in the caging report will allow the authorities of the fishing vessel or trap that caught the fish:

- ✓ **to make the cross-checks of information that is required under paragraph 76 and to launch investigations under paragraph 99 if the quantities caught and caged do not match and,**
- ✓ **to deduct from the quotas the weight of fish that has actually been caught.**

- **(ii.2)** detailed results of the **sampling** programme, with the **number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, and the** size and weight of every fish that was sampled;

- **(New)** the relevant caging declarations;

- **(New)** indication of cases where discrepancies of more than 10% between the number of individuals being caged and the number reported as caught require investigation in accordance with paragraph 174, and cases where the caging results indicate that catch is not in line with paragraphs 34 to 37;

[...]

- **(ii.3)** general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, eBCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage filename;

- **(ii.3)** comparison between the amounts declared in the eBCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: (Stereoscopic System-eBCD)/Stereoscopic System* 100).

[...]

[...]

3. Caging Report

(19-04. Annex 9. point 2.ii + New) The caging report referred to in paragraph X of this Recommendation shall include:

- a) **(New)** the caging results referred to in point 2;
- b) **(New)** the relevant reports of the release operations, conducted in accordance with Annex 10;

4. **(New sub-title) Use of the stereoscopic cameras systems outcome**

(19-04. Annex 9. point 2.iii + New) When receiving the results of the analysis of the stereoscopic video footages communicated by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 120, the catching flag or trap CPC/EU Member State competent authority shall take the following measures:

- a) **(New)** determine the range (lowest and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged by applying to the total weight reported to have been caged the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system communicated by the farm CPC competent authority;
- b) apply the following measures as regards releases and adaptation of the eBCD sections:
 - i. **(iii.1) when the** total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
 - no release shall be ordered;
 - the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system, or from alternative techniques providing they ensure the accuracy) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
 - ii. **(iii.2) when the** total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
 - a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
 - the release operations shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in Annex 10;
 - after the release operations took place, the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system, or from alternative techniques providing they ensure the accuracy, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
 - iii. **(iii.3) when the** total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
 - no release shall be ordered;

- the eBCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic **camera** system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the **stereoscopic camera system, or from alternative techniques providing they ensure the accuracy**) and average weight accordingly.
- c) **(19-04.Annex 9.point 2.iv)** ensure that for any relevant modification of the eBCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.

5. (New sub-title) Provisions applicable to JFO and traps

1. **(19-04.Annex 9.point 2.i)** Decisions consequent to differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic camera system programme shall be taken by the flag or trap CPC competent authority:
 - a) at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or the total trap catches, for JFOs and traps involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State;
 - b) at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/EU Member State competent authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
2. **(19-04.Annex 9.point 2.v)** In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO **or traps**, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant eBCD shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic **camera** system results.
3. The eBCD related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight **and the corresponding** number **of fish** released. The eBCD related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic **camera** systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.
4. The **eBCD** relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Release Protocol

[...]
[...]
[...]

PA2 agreed to review the protocol for release operations in the existing Annex 10. All cases where release orders may be issued are now identified, and the related administration clearly determined.

A mandatory segregation prior to the release and the use of stereoscopic camera are introduced to ensure that the quantities concerned are appropriate:

- in a direct release to the sea, in case the video does not allow to count individuals, the operation cannot obviously be repeated and you couldn't tell if the fish released was the right one;
- to prevent released fish from returning to the vicinity of the farm and to increase the chances of joining the stock, a minimum distance is proposed for such releases;
- in order to minimize the time spent on the farm by the fish to be released and increase the likelihood of released fish joining the stock, a deadline for the release is desirable.

Note: The current provision that refers to the release of BFT that are not covered by an eBCD has been moved under the subtitle "Release orders associated to caging and farming operations" at the end of section E – Caging.

(New sub-title) Issuing of release orders

1. **(New) Release orders from purse seine nets or traps shall be issued by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, on the basis of the prior transfer notification, the flag or trap CPC competent authority refuses the transfer operation as per paragraph 117. The total weight of the bluefin tuna to be released is converted into a corresponding number of individuals by applying the average weight reported in the purse seine logbook or the trap daily catch report.**
2. **Release orders after caging shall be issued:**
 - a) **by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, following procedures in paragraph 174 it is established that the weight caged exceed those reported caught. The release order shall be notified to the farm CPC competent authority, which transmit it to the farm operator concerned.**
 - b) **by the farm CPC competent authority when, after harvest, the remaining fish is not covered by an eBCD, or when a carry-over assessment or control transfer has identified an excess of fish.**
3. **For cases under section a) above the total weight of bluefin tuna to be released shall be converted into a corresponding number of individuals by applying the average weight resulting from the analysis of the stereoscopic video footages related to the relevant caging operation, made by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph xx of the Recommendation.**

(New sub-title) Segregation of fish prior to the release operation

4. **Prior to the release from a farm cage, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:**
 - **the fish to be released is segregated and moved to a transport cage, and the transfer of the fish to the transport cage is monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in Annex 8;**

- the number of fish segregated for release corresponds to the release order.

5. The prior segregation of the fish and the release operation shall be conducted in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer.

(New sub-title) Record of the release operation by video camera

6. The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be recorded by control camera and observed by a national observer, or by an ICCAT regional observer where its presence is mandatory.

(New sub-title) Reporting

7. All release operations shall be reported using the template in **Annex (to be developed)**:

- by the national observer, to its flag CPC competent authority;
- by the ICCAT regional observer to the flag, trap or farm CPC competent authority, and to the Consortium, for immediate transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat.

(New) General provisions

8. Release operations from transport cages must be executed immediately after receipt of the release order.

9. Release operations from farms must be executed within 3 months of the last caging operation of the fish concerned and at a minimum distance of 10 miles from the farm.

10. The master of the towing vessel or the farm operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place.

11. The farm CPC competent authority might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock.

[...]

Treatment of dead **and/or lost** fish

[...]

PA2 agreed to modify Annex 11 to clarify and introduce procedures and responsibilities for reporting dead or lost fish at all steps of the live BFT chain: transfer, transport, caging and farming.

A functionality to report dead and missing fish in the eBCD must be developed.

(New sub-title) Record of dead or lost bluefin tuna

1. **(New + 19-04 Annex 11 + 06-07.1b and 2b,c)** The number of bluefin tuna dead and/or lost during any operation regulated in this Recommendation shall be reported by the donor operator in the case of a transfer operations and associated transport, or the farm operator in the case of a caging operation or farming activities, and, where appropriate, deducted from CPC's quota concerned.

[...]

2. For the purposes of this Annex, lost fish refers to the missing BFT individuals that, after the potential differences detected during the investigation referred to in paragraph 174, have not been justified as mortalities.

Treatment of fish dead during first transfer

A new field has been introduced in the ITD to report the individuals dead during the first transfer.

3. **(Agreed in PA2+19-04 Annex 11)** The bluefin tuna which dies during the first transfer from a purse seine vessel or trap shall be recorded in the purse seine vessel logbook or the trap daily catch report, and reported on the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and on the transfer section of the eBCD.
4. **(Annex 11.a)** The eBCD shall be provided to the towing vessel(s) with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.
5. **(Annex 11.a + New)** The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2, after deduction of the mortalities.
6. **(Annex 11.a, with "quantities" replaced by "number")** The eBCD shall be accompanied by the ITD in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The number of bluefin tuna reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the number reported in Section 3 in the associated eBCD.
7. **(Annex 11.b)** A split of the eBCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel or the trap if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split eBCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
8. **(Annex 11.c)** With regard to eBCD, the dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch or, in the case of JFOs, either to participating catching vessels or flags.

(New sub-title) Treatment of fish dead and/or lost during further transfers and transport operations

9. **(New) Towing vessels shall report, using the template to this Annex, all bluefin tuna dead and/or lost during transport. Individual lines shall be completed by the master each time the dead or lost event has been detected.**
10. **(New) In case of further transfers, the master of the donor towing vessel must provide the original of the report to the master of the towing vessel receiving the bluefin tuna, keeping a copy on board for the duration of the campaign.**
11. **(New) At arrival of a transport cage to the destination farm, the master of the towing vessel shall deliver the complete set of dead or lost reports to the farm CPC competent authority.**
12. **(New) For the purpose of the quota uptake to be determined by the flag or trap CPC, the weight of fish dead or lost during transport shall be evaluated as follows:**
 - a) **for dead fish**
 - i. **in the case of landing, the effective weight at landing shall be applied;**
 - ii. **in the case that the dead fish is discarded, the average weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals discarded;**
 - b) **for fish otherwise considered as lost at the moment of the investigation referred to in paragraph 174, the average weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals considered as being lost.**

(New sub-title) Treatment of fish dead and/or lost during caging operations

13. **(New) The fish dead or lost during caging operations shall be reported by the operator on the caging declaration. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the number and weight of the fish dead or lost is reported in the relevant field of Section 6 of the eBCD.**

(New sub-title) Treatment of fish dead and/or lost during farming activities

The scope of this report is to prevent farm operators

- **to justify discrepancies found in carry-over assessment or random controls as fictitious mortalities, and**
- **to use the concerned eBCD to justify illegal fish.**

14. **(New) Dead or lost fish in farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm operator's report shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence (complaint filed about the stolen fish, damage report in case of damage to the cage, etc.). After receipt of such report, the farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or cancellation of the eBCD concerned (following the necessary developments in the eBCD system).**

Reporting of fish dead or lost during further transfers and towing operations		
Towing vessel	Name	
	ICCAT N° and Flag	
	ITD N° and Cage N°	
	Master's name	
Catching vessel(s)/trap	Name of vessel(s)/trap	
	ICCAT number and IFO N°	
	eBCDs number(s)	
Previous towing vessel (if any)	Name	
	ICCAT N° and Flag	
	ITD N° and Cage N°	
	Total number of BFT reported dead/lost (*)	
Farm of destination	CPC / Name / ICCAT N°	
Date	N° of BFT dead/lost	Master's signature
TOTAL		

(*) In case of further transfers, the Master of the donor towing vessel shall deliver the original of the mortalities report to the Master of the receiving towing vessel.

ICCAT Caging Declaration

ICCAT Caging Declaration		Document No:
1 - CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA		
Farm name:	Towing vessel name:	
ICCAT Register number:	ICCAT Register number:	
Caging authorization number:	Flag:	
Transport cage number:	IFO number:	
Farm cage number:	eBCD number(s):	
Date of caging:	Transfer declaration (ITD) number(s):	
Bluefin tuna dead/lost during transport (1):		
2 - CAGING INFORMATION – FARM OPERATOR AND ICCAT OBSERVER (2)		
	Farm Operator	ICCAT Observer (number only)
Number individuals:		
Quantities in Kg:		Not applicable
Number and weight (Kg) of BFT dead during caging:		
Farm operator name, date and signature:		Observer Name, ICCAT No, date and signature:
Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:
3 - CAGING INFORMATION – CPC FARM AUTHORITIES* (3)		
Number individuals:	Quantities in Kg:	
CPC authorities officer, date and signature:		

(1) **Total number and weight (Kg) of BFT reported dead/lost by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) which have transported the caged fish.**

(2) **Quantities determined by the farm operator and ICCAT observer after analysing the stereoscopic camera footage of the caging operation.**

(3) **Quantities established by the CPC farm authorities for the actual caging operation.**

Minimum Information for Fishing Authorizations

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and numbers)

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorization, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this Recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	From... to...	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to
Zones					
Species					
Fishing gear					
Other conditions					