

INFORMACIÓN ENVIADA POR ALGUNAS CPC EN LA SECCIÓN 5 DEL INFORME ANUAL

La Sección 5 de la Parte II del Informe anual invita a las CPC a informar a la Comisión de las principales dificultades encontradas en su implementación y en el cumplimiento las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

La Secretaría ha resumido las principales cuestiones planteadas: las secciones 5 completas están incluidas en el documento **COC-301/2021** y su adenda. El resumen podría ayudar al Comité de Cumplimiento (COC) a la hora de considerar los tipos de asistencia técnica en temas de cumplimiento que podrían ser útiles para algunas Partes contratantes, particularmente teniendo en cuenta la solicitud de ICCAT al Proyecto tñidos del Programa Océanos comunes-ABNJ (véase el **PLE-108/2021**) que, si se aprueba, proporcionaría financiación para la creación de capacidad.

En el pasado, muchas CPC han comunicado a menudo dificultades a la hora de implementar las medidas de ICCAT o respecto a cumplir los plazos. Sin embargo, como resultado de trabajar con la Secretaría de ICCAT y otras organizaciones, así como de la transposición de las medidas a la legislación nacional (Albania, Taipei Chino, Curazao, Egipto, Guatemala, Mauritania, Noruega, Trinidad y Tobago, Reino Unido, Estados Unidos de América), algunas de las CPC ya no comunican dificultades técnicas (Bolivia, Canadá, Unión Europea, Francia, Japón, Corea, México, Turquía y Uruguay) y han hecho esfuerzo para intentar garantizar el cumplimiento de las medidas de ICCAT.

Sin embargo, aun se comunican algunas dificultades a la hora de aplicar o conocer los requisitos de ICCAT (Argelia, Cabo Verde, Curazao, Egipto, Guinea Ecuatorial, Ghana, Mauritania, Surinam y Reino Unido). Los principales problemas de las CPC en la gestión de los requisitos de ICCAT se deben a la pérdida de conocimientos (renovación del personal, jubilaciones...) o a restricciones en los medios financieros o administrativos (Belice, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Curazao, Guinea Ecuatorial, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mauritania, Senegal, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Surinam, Siria, Trinidad y Tobago, Reino Unido). La gestión de los datos, los sistemas IT o el conocimiento de las CPC tiene una consecuencia directa en la calidad de los datos (Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Estados Unidos).

Estos dos últimos años se han visto muy afectados por la pandemia de COVID-19, lo que ha provocado dificultades, principalmente en la implementación de los programas de seguimiento o en el procesamiento de la información. Las restricciones provocadas por el confinamiento han limitado la capacidad de implementar medidas de ordenación efectivas y ha afectado a todo el sector pesquero en muchas CPC (Egipto, El Salvador, Gabón, Guatemala, Honduras, Marruecos, Noruega, Sudáfrica, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Siria, Trinidad y Tobago, Túnez).

Se han comunicado diferentes tipos de dificultades respecto a los programas de observadores debido a las limitaciones a la hora de asignar observadores y/o proporcionarles alojamiento (Argelia, Brasil, Costa Rica, Egipto, Gabón, Libia, Noruega, Rusia, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Senegal).

Aun se encuentran y comunican problemas con el tema de la captura fortuita (Barbados, Taipei Chino, Islandia, Rusia).

A pesar del impacto continuado de la situación de pandemia u otras dificultades, muchas CPC reiteran su compromiso a mejorar los programas de seguimiento, las leyes nacionales y a reforzar los controles e inspecciones para cumplir sus obligaciones para con ICCAT (Barbados, Costa Rica, Curazao, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Liberia, Namibia, Noruega, Reino Unido, Trinidad y Tobago, Venezuela), aunque los cambios legislativos requieren tiempo. Asimismo, recuerdan la importancia de respetar las medidas de conservación y ordenación (Belice, Brasil, China, Guyana, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Surinam).

Algunas CPC solicitan el apoyo de ICCAT para formación sobre las diversas obligaciones en términos de las medidas de conservación o de la implementación de los programas de seguimiento (Cabo Verde, Egipto, Ghana, Guyana, Senegal, Siria, Surinam).

La **Tabla 1** muestra un resumen temático de los problemas encontrados por las CPC, y el **Anexo 1** contiene extractos de la sección 5 de los Informes anuales para facilitar la consulta.

Table 1. Thematic summary of the problems encountered by the CPCs in their implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures for the year 2020.

Tableau 1. Résumé thématique des problèmes rencontrés par les CPC dans leur mise en œuvre et conformité des mesures de conservation et de gestion de l'ICCAT durant l'année 2020.

Tabla 1. Resumen por temas de los problemas encontrados por las CPC a la hora de implementar las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT del año 2020.

CPC	DIFICULTADES														MEJORAS						OTROS									
	Requiere mucho tiempo	Medios financieros	Datos requeridos y calidad	Cuestiones relacionadas con la captura fortuita	Pesca deportiva/de recreo	Territorios pequeños	Seguimiento flota artesanal	Coordinación/disponibilidad/personal	Conocimientos limitados	Flota/capturas/desembarques crecientes	Aplicación de requisitos/transposición de normas	Plazo	Formulario y cuestiones IT	Pandemia o clima adverso	Observadores: programa, gestión y alojamiento	Cooperación portuaria	Programa de seguimiento	Programa de observadores	Inspección y control	Medidas de ordenación y requisitos	Colaboración/personal dedicado	Formación: implementación o solicitud	Trazabilidad del pescado	Respaldo financiero o técnico	No flota/no actividades	Sin dificultades	Sin comentarios	Agradecimiento		
Albania																x				x	x								x	
Argelia			x			x		x		x					x		x	x				x								
Barbados				x																			x							
Belice						x		x			x									x										
Bolivia																				x	x						x			
Brasil							x							x	x															
Cabo Verde		x	x					x	x	x												x								
Canadá																					x									
China																												x		
Taipei Chino				x																x										
Costa Rica															x					x										
Côte d'Ivoire	x				x			x																						
Curazao		x	x				x	x	x	x						x	x	x	x	x	x									
Egipto														x	x			x		x	x	x								
El Salvador												x		x						x	x						x			
Guinea Ecuatorial			x	x				x	x			x													x					

CPC	DIFICULTADES													MEJORAS						OTROS												
	Requiere mucho tiempo	Medios financieros	Datos requeridos y calidad	Cuestiones relacionadas con la captura fortuita	Pesca deportiva/de recreo	Territorios pequeños	Seguimiento flota artesanal	Coordinación/ disponibilidad/personal	Conocimientos limitados	Flota/capturas/ desembarques crecientes	Aplicación de requisitos /transposición de normas	Plazo	Formulario y cuestiones IT	Pandemia o clima adverso	Observadores: programa, gestión y alojamiento	Cooperación portuaria	Programa de seguimiento	Programa de observadores	Inspección y control	Medidas de ordenación y requisitos	Colaboración/personal dedicado	Formación: implementación o solicitud	Trazabilidad del pescado	Respaldo financiero o técnico	No flota/no actividades	Sin dificultades	Sin comentarios	Agradecimiento				
Surinam		x	x				x	x		x						x		x	x		x											
Siria							x			x	x		x						x				x									
Trinidad y Tobago							x				x		x			x		x	x	x												
Túnez													x																			
Turquía																																
Reino Unido		x			x	x	x	x		x			x			x			x	x	x											
Estados Unidos de América			x																x													
Uruguay																																
Venezuela																																

EXTRACTS OF SECTION 5 FROM ANNUAL REPORTS

ALBANIA

No technical difficulties encountered in implementation and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

BFT farming activities were initiated in 2021 – Albania had adopted all pertinent ICCAT Recommendations into its local legislation mechanism and CPC Albania will be applying its best efforts to ensure correct governance in this new sector in the knowledge that, where necessary, it will have the support of other farming CPCs (such as E.U and Turkey). The EU-IPA financed project for Albania has enabled us to bring in experts and to organize a webinar and direct training for our Fishery Inspectors and Regional Observers thereby ensuring constant controls on vessels and other entities involved in the BFT activities. Also, with the support of EU and EFCA, we organized a webinar for the training of our Fishery Inspector on BFT farming.

Thanks to the help and readiness of Secretariat and Compliance Committee, Albania has realized in appropriate time all the reporting requirements to ICCAT.

ALGERIA

Pour mettre en œuvre et répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, l'Algérie a mis en place des systèmes et des programmes de suivi, d'observation, d'inspection et de collecte pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences et transmettre toutes les informations sollicitées par l'ICCAT.

Des insuffisances mineures sont encore constatées en matière de maîtrise de l'application des exigences de l'ICCAT en matière de renseignement du journal de pêche, dont l'administration de la pêche procédera au perfectionnement des capitaines de pêche pour améliorer la maîtrise des capitaines de pêche.

Aussi, la difficulté réside dans l'obligation de soumettre des données exigées par l'ICCAT, or dans certains cas, l'exigence ne peut s'appliquer, pour une raison ou une autre comme pour le groupe des Isthioforidés comme mentionner, et pour laquelle l'Algérie a demandé une exemption justifiée par l'inexistence de ce groupe d'espèces dans les eaux Algériennes, et aussi le fait qu'aucune flottille nationale n'est autorisée à aller pêcher les makaires dans les eaux de pays tiers.

Il y a aussi, la difficulté à embarquer des observateurs scientifiques à bord des navires palangriers ciblant l'espadon, de par l'étroitesse des embarcations artisanales non pontées.

BARBADOS

M:GEN20 and M:GEN21: There is one fishing vessel greater than 20m LOA registered but has not actively fished in well over a decade. ICCAT will be duly notified in the event that the vessel returns to active fishing
M: GEN26, TRO06 and SWO01: This is being addressed and methods of improving the traceability of fish and fish products is being developed in the upgrade of food safety legislation which have already been drafted.

M:BYC03: It must be reiterated that the current longline gear used by local fishers targets all species in the range of the gear and any species is equally likely to be taken. The definition of any species as "by-catch" is difficult and not appropriate in the context of most Barbadian fisheries as it is only under extraordinary circumstances that any of the catch is deliberately discarded. Nevertheless, fishers will be required to report any catch discards in trip reporting when such systems are implemented.

BELIZE

As a small developing country with a distant water fishing fleet, Belize has been able to ensure satisfactory compliance with majority of the important measures adopted by the Commission. However, there are a few measures that have posed significant challenges to fully implement. This is because of several factors,

including but not limited to, restrictions in human and institutional capacity and changes in our management and government regime and interagency communication and collaboration. Nonetheless, the adoption of our amended Act and subsidiary Regulations has allowed us to easily adopt and implement relevant conservation and management measures. Despite our minor limitations with compliance obligations, the Government of Belize is fully committed and invested in making certain that the relevant steps are taken to ensure compliance with all relevant and important conservation and management measures to which we are obligated.

BOLIVIA

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia no ha encontrado dificultades sustantivas en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de la Comisión, por la razón indicada en la sección precedente.

En el pasado, se han experimentado algunas dificultades para el cumplimiento de las fechas límite para el envío de la información, mayormente por razones de ajustes institucionales, pero en 2021 se considera que tales dificultades ya han sido superadas. Precisamente con la suscripción de un Compromiso de Cooperación y Asistencia Técnica con una entidad especializada en la materia de la pesca marítima internacional, celebrado en 2020, Bolivia espera potenciar sus capacidades institucionales y normativas, para hacer frente a los retos propios de esta actividad. En particular, Bolivia se siente preparada, de cara a la adopción del Protocolo para enmendar el Convenio Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico, concluido en Palma de Mallorca el 18 de noviembre de 2019, para el emprendimiento de estar a la altura de estas exigentes circunstancias.

BRAZIL

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Brazilian government has been promoting all efforts to continue the fisheries monitoring and data collection, however it is recognizable that this process has been prejudiced with the pandemic. Also, the main difficulties encountered in implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures were related to the artisanal nature of the majority of the catches in Brazil, since the landing sites of the boats are widespread requiring a quite significant logistic effort for their monitoring, besides the limitations to get observers onboard, differently from highly industrialized fleets that land large amounts of fish in relatively few ports and have much more space/ facilities to accommodate observers.

CABO VERDE

El principal problema que enfrenta nuestro sistema de gestión e de investigación en su desarrollo es la disponibilidad insuficiente de recursos financieros para todos los costos operativos. La implementación de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT requiere un seguimiento permanente y sería útil contar con el apoyo de ICCAT mediante acciones de formación con respecto a las diversas obligaciones en términos de conservación. notificación de datos a ICCAT. Los principales problemas encontrados son los siguientes:

- Existe una gran dificultad en la coordinación entre los diferentes actores, en particular la administración, vigilancia, investigación y operadores. Esto crea enormes problemas para obtener datos e información que cumplan positivamente con las obligaciones de ICCAT.
- Los recursos financieros son limitados para apoyar y mejorar la recopilación de datos, así como para fortalecer el sistema de vigilancia, el plan de muestreo estadístico y los datos biológicos.
- El apoyo técnico y financiero de ICCAT sería muy importante y bienvenido para apoyar y mejorar los programas estadísticos y el plan de muestreo biológico debido al aumento de desembarques locales y barcos extranjeros, que, por desembarques, también transbordo de especies de ICCAT en Cabo Verde.

CANADA

Canada received a 25 t transfer of swordfish from Senegal after the compliance reporting submission date, as such, Canada re-submitted its report to account for this transfer following the submission deadline.

Canada was also asked to revise sections of their Billfish and Shark Checksheets as well as the Compliance Reporting Summary table above. Edits were made and submitted on October 5th, 2021.

CHINA

Currently no such case. China will record and advise in a timely manner in future once encountered.

CHINESE TAPEI

To meet the reporting requirements established by ICCAT for species encountered as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and "Recommendation on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries" (Rec. 11-10) which requires CPCs to provide bycatch and discard data, Chinese Taipei has taken necessary steps to collect and report these data to the extent possible. However, it should be noted that since some of bycatches are required to be released alive or discarded dead without being taken onboard, measuring weight and length of them turns out to be difficult. Therefore, the crews or observer on board could only record the number of the bycatch.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- La Côte d'Ivoire dispose d'une petite unité de pêche sportive et récréative, cependant elle ne fait pas de suivi statistique et biologique à cause de l'irrégularité des activités mais aussi à cause de l'insuffisance de personnel technique.
- La Côte d'Ivoire ne dispose pas encore de plan de gestion sur les DCP car les travaux encourent nécessitent une logistique additionnelle.

Les difficultés rencontrées en matière de déclaration sont dues à la charge de travail.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica al tener embarcaciones de menos de 20 m de eslora se la ha dificultado llegar a implementar un programa de observadores a bordo que podría brindar información más detallada de las faenas de pesca.

Se presenta un plan de Plan de Enmienda del 2022 al 2025 para las pesquerías de atunes y especies afines, en aguas jurisdiccionales del Mar Caribe costarricense.

Se debe mejorar la implementación de formularios para recolección de datos de capturas y otra información.

CURACAO

5.1 Requirements for vessels larger than 24 metres in length

The fishing vessels under the flag of Curaçao larger than 24 metres in length must fulfil the following obligations in order to fish in the ICCAT Convention area:

- Be fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System, by satellite tracking system
- To follow strictly all the recommendations issued by ICCAT for their fishery.
- To submit a monthly report of catches to the fishing Authorities.
- To submit a "Transshipment Declaration" each time a transshipment is carried out.
- To submit a "Discharge Declaration" each time a discharge is carried out.
- Every year, to submit a list of "Fishing Licenses" those are issued to the vessel by third countries, in order to fish in the EEZ of different countries.
- Inform us as soon as a fishing licence is renewed.
- To apply for an International Fishing Permit issued by the Government of Curaçao that allows the vessel to operate in the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean and in the ICCAT Convention Area.

5.2 Artisanal fisheries

Background and former situation

The Government of Curaçao created a system of management shared between the Ministry of Economic Development (MED, formerly the Ministry of Economic and Labor Affairs) and the Ministry of Health, Environment, and Nature (GMN). MED manages high seas fishing and would manage large-scale domestic fishing in Curaçao waters if such fisheries were to exist, with the advice and consultation with the Fisheries Commission, International Fisheries Commission, and Minister of Traffic, Transportation, and Spatial Planning (VVRP). GMN's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB), formerly the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries (LVV), separately manages small-scale fishing in the Curaçao territorial sea. All of it may complicate fishery data recording and reporting when it comes to ICCAT species. In the case of industrial fisheries (surface fleets is clear, but when it comes to ICCAT species caught by artisanal fisheries, the data is not reported to the appropriate authorities, and is not shown in FAO or in ICCAT data bases. A monitoring system for artisanal fisheries is being developed by the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature in consultation with the Ministry of Economic Development.

During the on-site visit to Curaçao, Dr Arocha talks with officers at the Department of Fisheries Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB) (which falls under the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature) contributed to clarify the limitation on data collection and reporting of large pelagic species caught by artisanal fisheries. Although they recognized the need for it, most of their effort is directed towards managing reef fisheries. Officers at the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature indicated that they recorded data on catches of large pelagic species but were substantially impaired due to lack of financial support to monitor landings of large pelagic species, in addition to deficiencies in trained personnel at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature for data recording and reporting on species-specific catch. The last year of available catch data from large pelagic is 2006, however is not reported to ICCAT. Officials at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature presented a new report (yet to be published) on historical changes on fishery practices in Curaçao from 1950 to present, focusing mostly on reef fisheries, but with information on changes in large pelagic fisheries. It appears that the over-exploitation of inshore resources lead them to target costal pelagic fishes, mainly dolphinfish-DOL, and what they call blue marlin; later (recent times) when fishers became experienced and technology increased, fishers started to use oil-tankers as fish aggregating devises (oil-tanker FADs) targeting yellowfin tuna and blackfin tuna, as well as wahoo. It seems that they also catch billfishes and sharks, but due to the low price of those species in the local markets, fishers avoid them. Unfortunately, not data is consistently recorded. Due to the fact that the tankers came from Venezuela this type of fisheries is almost nihil, because of the Venezuelan situation there are no tankers coming to Curacao.

Dr Arocha talks with Fishery officers of MED, who are responsible for reporting Task I and Task II data to ICCAT, further explained their limitations to record, collect, and report catches of ICCAT species from artisanal fisheries due to the fact that this data is lacking at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature. Areas of potential strategic investment

Curaçao has the basis for data collection but is very limited on trained personnel At the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature. Thus, capacity building in the fishery collection of data from the large pelagic artisanal fishery could prove beneficial for ICCAT. Therefore, potential investment could be directed at a data collection program on large pelagic species of interest to ICCAT. Initially, the focus would be one of the two main ports where ICCAT species are landed, by training fishery data collectors for large pelagic species (specifically ICCAT species of interest), most specifically in species ID and effort data collection, particularly in the use of oil-tankers as FADs, as well as the design of port sampling schemes for artisanal fisheries. To improve data collection the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Development are working on a protocol of cooperation between the two Ministries to improve also monitoring control and surveillance on local fisheries. This protocol will be signed in 2020.

New Fisheries ordinance

A new fisheries ordinance has been developed by Curacao in 2015 which comprises a setup of a body of a fisheries authority. This new ordinance has been approved by the Government and has to be treated by the Parliament. The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Health is consulting with each other

how the part of artisanal fisheries can be further developed. Curaçao fisheries laws that govern now include national and island ordinances and subsidiary legislation, which predate 2010, continue to apply until this new fisheries ordinance of 2015 is approved by the Parliament of Curacao.

Reporting of sharks and billfishes

The National Nature Policy Ordinance (landsverordenende grondslagen natuurbeheer en -bescherming (PB 1998, No. 49) and the Council Decision of 21st September 2018, no. 18/2870, establishing the consolidated text of the National Ordinance Foundations for Nature Management and Protection of the Nature Policy Ordinance of the former Netherlands Antilles does provide legal protection for all species listed in Appendix I of the CMS (art. 8c), Appendix I of CITES (Art. 6 ,7) appendices I and II of the SPAW protocol (Art. 8a en 8b). The available legislation provides the scope for implementing effective protection of sharks.

As reference to improve the sharks reporting a shark protection plan has been written which is now in implementation in Curacao and the different other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles 1F .

With regard to the billfish reporting a Decree hereto is currently being formulated. The Fishing Authority un the meantime circulars are formulated to give instructions to the vessel owners to comply with the ICCAT recommendations and Regulations. The Fishing Authority has 100% monitoring, control and surveillance on those instructions. Curaçao has 100% observer coverage and the crew of the vessels have been trained to ensure the safe release of bycatch, in the shortest possible time.

EGYPT

Despite the continued impact of Covid 19 on the whole world, Egypt tried to adhere to the timeline to provide the required information, fulfill the required tables and deliver it on time to ICCAT with the help of the ICCAT's secretariat who provided support throughout this year as we have always entrusted.

On the other hand, there was an outstanding cooperation between us and the other CPCs especially Libya under the leadership of the chairman of panel 2, this cooperation of JFO with Libya helped us to complete a successful season.

So, Egypt implemented ICCAT conservation and management measures, and provided the fisheries data at the appropriate time as much as possible.

As a member of ICCAT, especially with a new team managing ICCAT file, Egypt tried hardly to comply with all ICCAT measures for implementation as well as recommendations and resolutions facing some challenges one of which is the limited availability of trained observers and scientists to collect biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities which in turn led to absence of Egypt in conducting research activities or engaging in any scientific programmes in the convention area. So, Egypt asks for the support of ICCAT to design the observer program to be implemented for the sustainability of ICCAT managed species.

EL SALVADOR

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento, no obstante lo cual se desarrollan programas constantes de fortalecimiento institucional. La pandemia de COVID-19 ciertamente impuso retos especiales sobre todo en el procesamiento de la información y remisión de reportes, sin embargo, a través de un plan de acción ejecutado institucionalmente se minimizaron las demoras y se desarrolló un esquema de evaluación constante para implementación de las mejoras a nuestro sistema interno.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- Falta de un sistema estadístico fiable, ya que Guinea Ecuatorial no dispone de una flota atunera nacional, la poca captura de los Túnidos y especies afines que declaramos procede de las pesquerías que realizan los pescadores artesanales de la Isla de Annobón,
- Falta de Formación de Recursos Humanos en la estadística pesquera y en los temas relacionados con ICCAT,

- La declaración tardía de las capturas por parte de los pescadores, hace que la Célula esté enviando datos con un poco de retraso.

EUROPEAN UNION

No important difficulties were encountered in 2020.

FRANCE

Il n'y a pas eu de difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en œuvre ni dans le respect des mesures de conservation et de gestion de l'ICCAT pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon en 2020.

En raison de problèmes internes à l'armement, le navire ATLANTIC ODYSSEY n'a pas opéré de pêcheries aux thonidés et espèces apparentées en 2020.

Il n'y a eu aucun débarquement de thonidés à SPM en 2020.

Aucune infraction à la réglementation n'a été constatée en 2020.

GABON

L'année 2020 a été marquée par la pandémie de la COVID-19 dans le secteur de la pêche en générale. Les activités de pêche ont été suspendues pendant trois mois. Par ailleurs, les observations en mer ont été suspendues pendant toute l'année, idem pour le suivi physique des débarquements en l'absence de protocole garantissant la sécurité des acteurs impliqués dans ces activités.

GHANA

5.1 Tropical

The Ghanaian processing software for her catch data is still not available to streamline Task 2 after a decade of revisions. Within the complexities of our fishery, we do hope that that the new software will be finalized by ICCAT/IRD which will yield fruitful results. Ghana has stated her willingness to co-operate in all spheres for a suitable programme which would stand the test of time. In the interim all raw data from all our individual vessels have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat and impartially incorporated into the ICCAT database since 2006.

It is very difficult to collate weekly data on Big Eye tuna and other important species as vessels arrive after months of leaving port and more so have no real-time electronic monitoring systems to disseminate the information such as electronic logbook.

In integrating data collected in the field especially FAD deployed among others, over a set by set basis for monthly analysis for all segments of surface fishing fleets has become cumbersome and a unified system and software is envisaged.

5.2 Sharks & Bycatch Issues

There is the need for more training in this field as the fishery is becoming more important especially in areas of endangered species becoming extinct. Manuals are few and general and presently we are able to work closely on a few sharks grouping such as silky and blue sharks as we encounter them a lot. The others are termed others or as "shark NEI". We don't have the expertise in the field of shark taxonomy hence we often don't fill out the forms to the best of ICCAT's requirements; this has been a concern to us.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala, realiza diferentes acciones para mejorar y fortalecer el cumplimiento de las medidas aplicables en el marco de la Comisión o aquellas que puedan contribuir a ésta.

En lo concerniente a los DCP, buques de apoyo y cuadernos de pesca, la flota atunera nacional, es parte de un programa de observadores independiente que cumple con los estándares internacionales en cuanto a registro y seguimiento de las actividades pesqueras. Este proveedor de servicio comunica con regularidad los informes y datos a la Comisión, con lo cual se busca fortalecer las medidas de conservación a futuro.

Con relación a los tiburones y otras especies de captura fortuita, existen una serie de instrumentos nacionales e internacionales adoptados para el ordenamiento, regulación y manejo de estas especies, como: Protocolo de liberación de tiburones y rayas, el reglamento regional OSP-05-11 para desalentar el aleteo del tiburón (a pesar de que en Guatemala no se realiza dicha práctica), entre otros. Por lo cual, nuestros armadores atuneros que operan en la zona del Convenio conscientes de la importancia de estos recursos y en cumplimiento diferentes regulaciones o iniciativas se esfuerzan en implementar las acciones posibles para liberar los organismos vivos al mar.

Por otro lado, es innegable los efectos que la pandemia por COVID-19 causó a nivel mundial, siendo el sector pesquero parte de las estadísticas de las industrias afectadas. Las restricciones provocadas por el confinamiento no dieron la oportunidad a un control o vigilancia de las medidas de conservación y ordenación efectiva, dejando una brecha en la pesca, alternado la producción, interrumpiendo las cadenas de suministro y reduciendo el gasto de los consumidores debido a las diversas medidas de aislamiento y aunque los alimentos en sí mismos no causan la transmisión del COVID-19 a los humanos, todas las fases de la cadena de suministro de la pesca pueden interrumpirse o detenerse debido a las restricciones que provoca el mismo. Al mismo tiempo, también debe considerarse el impacto que provoca la COVID-19 en las mujeres, de por sí vulnerables como productoras, procesadoras y vendedoras de alimentos, considerando la posibilidad de que reciban apoyo gubernamental a lo largo de toda la cadena de producción, dejando a un lado la trazabilidad de los recursos, afectando la facilidad con la que se ejecutaban las tareas de cumplimiento de ordenación anteriormente a la pandemia.

Así mismo, es necesario recalcar el desequilibrio que muchas veces las instituciones sufren por la renovación del personal técnico, la cual se ha visto como una debilidad pues se pierde la experiencia y seguimiento para el cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación.

Situación que en alguna oportunidad produce que existan espacios vacíos de información respecto al cumplimiento de algunas normas. Sin embargo, como país parte de la Comisión, busca capacitar de forma constante a nuestro personal, por lo cual, reiteramos el esfuerzo de nuestro país para mejorar año con año el cumplimiento y así atender responsablemente nuestras competencias.

GUYANA

SHK 01: There is urgent need for assistance to develop Guyana's NPOA for shark. Sharks are landed dressed and the fins are more valuable than the carcass. Beside the NPOA there is also need for legislation to support the respective ICCAT recommendations in relation to management of shark species.

Guyana would like to indicate that there are many challenges regarding the shark fishery. However, the tuna fishery is notified of the ICCAT recommendations and are advised to follow them. To this end, the FD is committed to working with that fishery to ensure compliance until regulations and the NPOA for sharks are developed.

At the Artisanal level most sharks are utilized at the local level and the difficulty remains in the species identification.

BYC 8002-8003: There is little data on incidence of turtle interaction and seabird entanglements with the fishing gear. There is a need for regulations to be developed to sensitize the fishers and to mitigate the impact on the environment.

Final remarks

Please note that the FD is committed to ensuring that all implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures including accurate data reporting and on time submission are complied with. However, the FD has its fair number of challenges. These include and are not limited to the human resources. For example, the senior person who would have reported to ICCAT until 2019 has retired and even that person had challenges as can be noted in the various correspondences from ICCAT over the

years. As such, there is urgent need for training of staff on ICCAT matters. The FD have recently reached out to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) for some assistance in this regard. However, we will also be appreciative similar support from ICCAT on these matters.

HONDURAS

Actualmente Honduras no cuenta con una flota pesquera abanderada y autorizada sobre especies en la ICCAT por lo cual no se tienen activas las medidas de conservación y ordenación en el aprovechamiento de las especies reguladas por la ICCAT.

Igualmente se hace mención al retraso en remitir el presente informe anual, debido a un cambio de autoridades en el 2020 y las limitaciones del personal por las medidas de bioseguridad para evitar contagios por COVID-19, lo cual incurrió en los atrasos de la fecha de entrega y el manejo de los formularios 2021; por lo cual solicito muy respetuosamente a la Comisión la comprensión que pueda brindar a lo antes expuesto.

ICELAND

Due to a discard ban onboard Icelandic fishing vessels, ICCAT CMM provision that ban retention or landing of certain commercial fish species cannot be implemented as such. In yearly BFT regulations for directed fishing provisions are made that require such species (mostly shark species not present in Icelandic waters) to be released alive if possible. If dead the catch shall be landed, registered and submitted to the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute for scientific purposes only.

JAPAN

N/A.

KOREA

None.

LIBERIA

Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures is a priority to the fisheries management of Liberia; as such Liberia is making every effort to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures. In 2020, there were 48 licensed tuna fishing vessels through Access Agreement to fish in the EEZ of Liberia. Liberia in an effort to ensure that it tracks the implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, has staff delegated with specific responsibilities to the execution of adopted recommendations of ICCAT.

LIBYA

Due to the unstable situation prevailing since 2011 there were some difficulties encountered in the embarkation of ROPs. Therefore one reverted to the use of alternative ports such as Mehdiya and Sfa in Tunisia, Antalya in Turkey and Marsaxlokk and Valetta in Malta for the embarkation and disembarkation of the Regional Observers.

MAURITANIE

A partir de 2015, la Mauritanie a élaboré et mis en œuvre une nouvelle réforme de son secteur des pêches ; introduisant ainsi le paradigme du système de gestion par quota. Ce système repose sur les connaissances scientifiques les plus récentes et fiables disponibles, permettant de définir un TAC global, puis par groupes d'espèces ou espèces qui sont ensuite répartis par opérateur.

D'ores et déjà, au niveau de la pêcherie des thons un gap d'information existe quant au suivi du niveau de l'exploitation des différents groupes de la pêcherie thonière aussi bien en termes d'espèces capturées accessoirement par les opérateurs non moins de concession sur le thon (licence thon) qu'en termes de quantité (données agrégées au niveau du journal de pêche et autres déclarations de débarquement).

Cette situation constatée et signalée par nos services de gestion chargés du suivi régulier de l'exploitation des concessions de droit d'usage allouées dans le cadre de la nouvelle réforme du système de gestion, constitue une insuffisance qui pourrait impacter la durabilité de la pêcherie des thons.

MEXICO

No aplica.

MAROC

Durant la saison 2021, le royaume du Maroc a rencontré certaines difficultés à transmettre des données notamment celles en relation avec les exigences scientifiques dans les délais fixés par l'ICCAT.

En effet, ces difficultés sont la conséquence de la pandémie COVID 19, où certains chercheurs scientifiques chargés de recueillir ces données ont été atteints par le COVID 19 (voir notre courriel adressé au secrétariat à ce propos en date du 2021/07/31).

NAMIBIA

All Namibian licensed Large Pelagic vessels ensure that all products of tuna and tuna-like species, when entering or leaving the country, are accompanied by necessary documents. For vessels operating under a charter arrangement, Namibia validates the documents for those on the ICCAT record. Re-export certificates for foreign catches landed in Namibian ports are also issued.

Management measures in force in the large pelagic fishery are: the ICCAT Catch Documentation Scheme, TACs for Albacore and Swordfish, catch limit on big eye tuna as by-catch in the Albacore fishery and a sharing arrangement quota on Albacore and gear restrictions for long-line & bait boat vessels only. In addition, value-added processing as a license condition for bait boat vessels and limited entry (number of licences) for the long-line fishery are the other management measures in place.

NORWAY

The Norwegian fishing season in 2020 was heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries was in close contact with the ICCAT Secretariat due to the gravity of the pandemic, and constantly changing travelling restriction regulations in Norway and the rest of Europe. The ICCAT Secretariat was informed of the Covid-19 situation in Norway in April 2020 (ICCAT Circular #2389/2020). All arrangements were made for observers to travel to Norway, however, the 20 August, shortly before the first observer was to arrive in Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries decided to prohibit the vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in 2020 to have an international observer on board (ICCAT circular #5835/20). At the time, the spread of Covid-19 had increased, and the Government of Norway signalled that it might be necessary to implement stricter regulations in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19. At the same time The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries made a risk assessment for national inspectors/observers, concluding that they would not be allowed on board vessels. The risk assessment concluded that it would be nearly impossible to keep a sufficient distance between the inspector/observer and the rest of the crew. Consequently, having an inspector or observer on board would increase the risk of transmitting Covid-19 to/from the crew on the vessel, and the severe risk of potential life-threatening outcome. In this risk assessment, travelling to the vessel was also considered a high threat, even if the travelling was within Norway. When it came to an international observer, the risk of catching Covid-19 while travelling to/from the destination was also considered as a high threat.

The Directorate of Fisheries stayed in close contact with the ICCAT Secretariat and the ROP. It was arranged for each vessel to have a designated crew member to take the role as observer and fill out weekly report. These designated crew members participated in a one-day online briefing/training by the ROP, clarifying the procedures and data requirements. The reports from the designated crew members were sent to the Directorate of Fisheries for control, before forwarded to the ROP. The vessels participating in the fishery were monitored electronically by the Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As long as the vessel was active in the BFT fishery, the vessel sent daily catch report to the FMC through the electronic reporting system. These reports were sent even if the vessel had zero catches. The data from these catch reports were compared to the catch landed in port. Any interruption

in the transmission of the electronic logbooks were immediately followed up by the FMC. The Norwegian Coastguard did also have access to the electronic logbooks in real-time and did control the fishing vessels to the extent possible.

A final summary report was completed at the end of the deployment.

PHILIPPINES

None as of the moment, as the Philippines has no active fleet in the ICCAT Area of Convention from 2015 to present.

RUSSIA

In 2020 Russia did not carry out the specialized fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). In 2020 the catch of tunas was 2635 tons.

Difficulties are encountered in collecting of scientific materials by observers on board fishing trawlers.

1. With periodic by-catch of tunas and in small quantities (sometimes singly) difficulties are encountered in collecting materials on fish length and their biological parameters. At certain periods, it is not possible to provide monthly data for some tuna species.
2. In the case of the low by-catch of tunas, difficulties are encountered in assessing the proportion of by-catch in the total catch by trawl. Observers who periodically carry out work in the vessel's hold on a conveyor feeding the catch for processing, cannot make an accurate assessment on the by-catch per day.

In order to more fully collect by-catch materials, two observers per vessel are sent to Russian fishing vessels. The work schedule of observers at sea is optimized for a more complete and efficient use of working time.

SENEGAL

Des difficultés d'ordre administratif, de gestion et techniques peuvent être évoquées pour une bonne observation des règles de gestion de l'ICCAT. Il s'agit de:

- la transposition des recommandations pertinentes dans le cadre juridique de la pêche du Sénégal qui est en cours ;
- l'implication de plusieurs services administratifs nécessite une synergie et une coordination qui se mettent en place progressivement ;
- Les bases de données disponibles qui n'offrent pas un traitement optimal des informations ;
- le vieillissement et le nombre réduit des observateurs font qu'il est difficile de mettre en œuvre le programme national d'observateurs scientifiques. A cet effet, il y a un besoin de formation et de renforcement des capacités en matière de collecte des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologiques, de mise à niveau pour pouvoir accomplir les tâches scientifiques à bord.

SOUTH AFRICA

Noting Capacity constraints, South Africa complied with all its data and reporting requirements to ICCAT. It should however be noted that some of the data and reports in 2020 were submitted late, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as shortage of staff responsible for tuna and tuna like species research and management.

ST VINCENT & GRENADINES

As an island state, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes the contributions which the fisheries sector makes to the economy and the food and nutritional security of developing states. With an increased demand for fish and the increased efforts from fishers to meet this demand, globally fishing pressure on the marine capture fisheries has led to the degradation of some fish stocks. The key constraint faced in the implementation of conservation and management measures is a lack of capital to finance relevant initiatives, however St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to implement activities towards the improvement of legislation, policies and procedures involving the marine space.

Due to the risks involved with the Covid-19 pandemic a National Observer was not deployed in 2020.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is drafting by-catch mitigation measures as well as safe handling procedures for sea turtles. Notwithstanding, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has placed a total ban on the harvesting of sea turtles as of 2017. With regards to seabird interactions, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is drafting a NPOA for seabirds.

SURINAME

Because of several factors such as, limited financial and human capacity, an outdated fisheries legislation we are not in a position to ensure full compliance with all the conservation and management measures adopted by the ICCAT Commission.

Suriname acts as a port state and, in addition to its normal reporting obligations, we must also comply with port state obligations. Under these port state obligations, Suriname is obliged to inspect 5% of the total number of landings of foreign fishing vessels offloading their catch in Suriname. However, it has been found that Surinamese inspectors are currently not well trained to inspect foreign tuna vessels. Therefore, in 2012 Suriname asked ICCAT to assist Suriname in training these inspectors in order to comply with the obligations towards ICCAT (Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)).

Our National fishing legislation is outdated (dated from 1980) and needs to be updated in order to be able to comply with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures. With the support of FAO, a draft for a new Fisheries Act has been drawn up. The draft Fisheries Act provides for a broad institutional setting with the aim of ensuring a transparent and efficient management and decision-making process within the fisheries sector. It also provides for the establishment of a Fisheries Development Fund that aims to promote the ecological and socio-economic sustainable development of the fisheries and fisheries sector in the Republic of Suriname. The law contains provisions on the management and conservation of fish stocks, including the requirement to establish fishing management plans. The law also lays down rules regarding the licenses issued to Surinamese fishing vessels within the waters of Suriname, attaching great importance to transparency and legal certainty. A new part of fisheries legislation is the regulation of fishing and related activities on the high seas. Suriname is currently unable to issue fishing licenses for international waters. The development of a new fisheries law is currently at a very advanced stage. Once this process has been completed, Suriname will also have their own tuna fishing vessels.

To ensure full compliance with Recommendation 13-13 by ICCAT, Suriname is in need for some clarification on this recommendation. It is not entirely clear for the government of Suriname whether it is an obligation to register a non-tuna vessel longer than 20 meters, targeting demersal finfish in our waters (Exclusive Economic zone) under our national law as the main catch and catches some King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*), some Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*), and some sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) as by-catch. Therefore, the government of Suriname had to register 2 vessels on the ICCAT record of vessel list in 2020 but because of the uncertainty we didn't continue to do that. We also send a letter to the PWG on the 7 May 2021 requesting some clarification on this matter.

SYRIA

General Commission for Fisheries Resources as fish authority in Syria doing all available means to improve fisheries management and statistical data collection under the difficult conditions in Syria, it encourage fishermen to develop their fishing gear and extend fishing activities to EEZ to meet the high demand for

marine products due to overexploitation of coastal fisheries resources, but because of circumstances in Syria and illegal sanctions since 2011 there is less interest of investing in fishing activities, in addition to the fact that many fishermen moved for another alternative works. We hope that with the end of the crisis in Syria, more new vessels will be operated and conduct to fishing activities. Another difficulty raised in 2021 as result of compulsory quarantine and suspension of all administration services activities for long time in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in Syria, we are sorry for any default of fulfilling of ICCAT obligations in 2021.

General Commission for Fisheries Resources request for technical support and training programs regarding resource management to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago's outdated fisheries legislation continues to be addressed to facilitate full compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Fisheries Management Bill (FMB) was laid in Parliament in August 2020 and subsequently in October 2020, following the general elections and consequent reconstitution of the Parliament. It is currently being reviewed by a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee. Draft Regulations were developed to facilitate implementation of the registration and licensing system, and monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.

In order to address the implementation of port State measures in Trinidad and Tobago, a Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Regulating Fishing, Fishing Related Activities and Relevant Trade (MOU IUU-Fishing) was developed among the agencies with relevant responsibilities. The MOU was signed and came into effect in August 2019 and since then advances have been made with the operationalisation in March 2021 of the Cabinet-Appointed Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and report on implementation of the MOU. The participating agencies include: the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Fisheries Division), the Ministry of National Security (Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard), the Ministry of Finance (Customs and Excise Division), the Ministry of Works and Transport (Maritime Services Division), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Tobago House of Assembly (Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries). The Oversight Committee will be guided in its decision-making by the draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the PSMA and the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Review (including Port Assessment) which were developed and conducted respectively under the Port State Measures Support Project, GCP/RLA/222/USA. Enactment of the FMB and re-establishment of the fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capability within the Fisheries Division were determined to be the most significant interventions required for Trinidad and Tobago's advancement with respect to compliance with its international obligations. In this regard an action plan to address the deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legal, administrative and MCS frameworks was submitted to the Cabinet for consideration. In addition, the Fisheries Division has been implementing, since October 2017, an Action Plan to address IUU Fishing in the Ports and Waters under the Jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries is continuing its efforts to finalise a National Plan of Action for sharks. The draft NPOA is to be submitted by the Fisheries Division for Ministerial approval followed by Cabinet approval. In addition, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission endorsed a Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing which will be used as a guide for developing National Plans of Action IUU Fishing, including that of Trinidad and Tobago. Further, Trinidad and Tobago participated in a WECAFC Survey on the state of readiness to implement the RPO-IUU Fishing in-country to help guide the regional approach towards strengthening: (a) national capacity to develop and implement NPOA-IUU Fishing; (b) regional coordination in fisheries enforcement; (c) data collection on IUU fishing incidences; and (d) national capacity to implement the RPOA-IUU Fishing – among other things. Trinidad and Tobago also participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Working Group on IUU Fishing in September 2020, which among other things, updated on developments at the global level, of the implementation of the PSMA and complementing instruments in the WECAFC region and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, and developed an updated work plan of the RWG-IUU Fishing and recommendations to be considered by the 18th Session of the WECAFC.

It is recognised that the reporting of data from ICCAT statistical document programs has been problematic in recent years. This activity has been affected by limitations in staffing capacity. However, it is envisaged that the recent designation of new staff will result in an improvement in reporting.

Finally, it must be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have the effect of inhibiting the pace of delivery of output of the Fisheries Division and the submission of data and information by industry operators, as a result of the national level restrictions placed on both the Public Service and the public in general beginning March 2020. There was some easing of the restrictions in August 2021 including the opening of the maritime borders, with conditions.

TUNISIA

Difficultés liées au COVID-19.

TURKEY

Turkey did not encounter any difficulties in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Overseas Territories are small islands at various stages of development with limited human and financial resources available. Capacity and capital restrictions are therefore an issue in complying with all ICCAT measures in all the territories. However, all the territories take their ICCAT responsibilities seriously and are endeavouring to improve fisheries management where resources allow this, with the support of the UK Government.

Structured development of sustainable fisheries is a core component of the UK Government's environmental strategies for its Overseas Territories. The UK is working closely with territories to achieve these objectives, focusing on a range of areas. In 2016 the UK Government announced its 'Blue Belt' initiative which will continue through to 2022, providing technical advice to support improvements in institutional arrangements in the UKOTs and effective ecosystem-based management of marine resources. Whilst legislative changes are being considered in many of the territories, implementation can take time and is impacted by the amount of outstanding legislation in other areas.

5.1 Bermuda

As a result of upgrades to the Bermuda Customs Department's system a few years ago, there is better itemisation of imported tuna and tuna-like species. However, a fair amount of tuna is still being characterised as 'other tunas'. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will work with the Customs Department to continue to improve reporting in this area. In addition, work still needs to be done to ensure that checks on the documentation of consignments of bigeye tuna and swordfish imported into Bermuda are implemented in line with all import requirements (GEN 0026; TRO 2006; SWO 3001).

5.2 St Helena

For St Helena, capacity and capital restrictions are still an issue in complying with ICCAT measures. However, St Helena is committed in its endeavour to improve fisheries management and established a fisheries science programme, including a tuna tagging programme. This programme has facilitated improved data collection and submission of relevant information to ICCAT, aiding in the compliance with certain ICCAT measures.

The Fisheries Section of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP) is still in the final stages of reviewing the licensing system for commercial, recreational and sports fishing activities within St Helena waters. Relevant ICCAT recommendations are being fully considered within this process and provisions to meet them will be incorporated.

5.3 Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

The Turks and Caicos Islands, as mentioned in previous sections, is not presently targeting ICCAT species commercially, although the interest to pursue some has risen over recent months. The TCI is also in the process of amending regulations, to enhance the protection of sharks and other elasmobranchs in over 70%

of the fishery limits. Hence from a conservation standpoint, the TCI is proactively making strides to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, which would help if and when species begin to be targeted commercially.

5.4 British Virgin Islands (BVI)

The British Virgin Islands experienced two major (Category 5) hurricanes during September 2017, which devastated the island's infrastructure, had a major effect on fishing activity and fisheries data collection and the territories ability to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In our 2020 annual report, the United States reported that, based on the preliminary landing information available at that time, the annual Atlantic blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish 250-landings limit had been exceeded. In response, from September 30 through December 31, 2020, NOAA Fisheries required catch-and-release fishing only for all three species in all areas in all areas of the Atlantic Ocean. Subsequent data quality assurance and quality control review showed that the 2020 limit had not been met in September. The discrepancy was the result of released fish mistakenly being counted as landed. The source of the error has been identified and corrected. Final end-of-year accounting indicates that the estimate of Atlantic blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale spearfish landings was 235.

The United States has two issues to report relative to our implementation of the Swordfish and Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programs in the most recent two biennial reporting periods (Jul-Dec 2020 and Jan-Jun 2021). Two shipments of swordfish were imported from Guyana (one shipment containing South Atlantic swordfish in December 2020 and one shipment containing North Atlantic swordfish in January 2020). The United States is pursuing administrative action in response to this situation, consistent with the provisions of Rec. 01-22. Additionally, several shipments of North Atlantic swordfish were imported from Canada during the Jul-Dec 2020 and Jan-Jun 2021 reporting periods with documents that were validated by Canada but did not provide the relevant gear code as required by Rec. 01-22. The United States is taking administrative action in this case, as well.

URUGUAY

No se encontraron dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

Todas las Recomendaciones de ICCAT aprobadas durante la Reunión de la Comisión en el año 2020 han sido internalizadas en Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

La Administración Pesquera del país; a través del seguimiento y control de las pesquerías atuneras, emprenden acciones constantes para subsanar cualquier dificultad en el cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación en las pesquerías objetivo de ICCAT; en tal sentido se establecieron medidas de descarte para el atún albacora (*T. alalunga*) y la aguja blanca (*T. albidus*) desde el 15 de noviembre del 2020.