

Original: English**BLUEFIN FISHING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLANS****NORWAY**

Norway became member of ICCAT in 2004. In light of the stock situation for bluefin tuna, Norway adopted 3 May 2007 a prohibition for that year for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway's territorial waters, in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in international waters. A new regulation adopted 19 December 2007 provides for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, remained in force until 2014. In 2014 Norway permitted a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October.

Following ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] adopted at the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission, Norway will also in 2015 open up for an exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway has not had any targeted fishery for bluefin tuna over the past years, and only a limited exploratory fishery conducted by one vessel in 2014, no capacity management plan is presented.

The exploratory fishery in 2014 indicated a change in the distribution of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone compared to the previous period when Norwegian vessels conducted targeted fisheries for this species. Bluefin tuna was observed simultaneously both in the south and far north off the Norwegian coast in July-September 2014. As the fishery was conducted by a single purse seiner, and the bluefin tuna migrate over large distances in a short period of time during the main feeding season, it proved challenging for this vessel to locate the bluefin tuna.

Hence, an important lesson drawn from the 2014 season is that more than one vessel is required to conduct exploratory fisheries for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone. As Norway has not conducted targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna since 1986, we need to acquire more knowledge about the changes in distribution and migration. At the same time, we need to find out which fishing methods would be the most convenient today. To facilitate and enhance a successful exploratory fishery, Norway plans to authorize two vessels during the 2015 exploratory fishery. One of these vessels will be a purse seiner and the other a longliner, or alternatively two longliners. By utilising two vessels a larger fishing area may be covered. This will contribute to increasing our knowledge about the distribution and feeding migration of bluefin tuna in the North East Atlantic.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through a Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2015, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation [14-04]. Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and other relevant recommendations.

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Annual Fishing Plan 2015

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2015 is 36,57 tonnes.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2015:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October for one purse seine vessel and from 1 August to 31 December for one longline vessel, or alternatively for two longliners from 1 August to 31 December.
- Each vessel will be given an individual vessel quota, and the total allocation for the two vessels will be 36 tons.
- 570 kilos of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna.
- All catches shall be landed. Vessels not targeting bluefin tuna shall release incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna if alive. Dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed.
- Transshipment of bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.
- The vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna can be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.
- Recreational and sport fisheries for bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 25, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes or helicopters will be prohibited.
- In accordance with [14-04] paragraph 89, the purse seine vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have an ICCAT regional observer onboard and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts. The longline vessel(s) authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must, in accordance with paragraph 88, have a national observer onboard during 20% of the time the vessel is targeting bluefin tuna.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07] paragraph 14 no carry-over of any underharvest will be allowed.

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Annual Inspection Plan 2015

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 52 Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04]. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) will monitor also the bluefin tuna fishery closely.

The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour and electronic logbook on a daily basis. Both position reports and electronic logbooks will be received by 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 either VMS signals or electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.

VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Rec 03-14.

Landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries in real time, and the reported catches will be deducted from the vessel's quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.

When the Norwegian quota of bluefin tuna is exhausted, the Directorate of Fisheries will stop the fishery.