

REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2
(Madrid, Spain, 23-24 February 2015)

1. Opening of the meeting

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

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participants and observers (see List of Participants attached as **Appendix 2**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mrs. Staci Rijal (United States) was designated as the Rapporteur.

4. Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2015 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3**.

Before individual plans were discussed, one CPC made a general point asking CPCs who did not outline the VMS transmission rate or their bycatch quota to clarify their intended actions on those topics.

Albania

Albania submitted their plan after required deadline and it was therefore not available for translation prior to the meeting. This late submission should be considered as a potential non-compliance by the Compliance Committee. Albania presented their plan in detail for the benefit of the non-English speakers and also highlighted some recent changes to the structure of the Ministries with responsibilities for ICCAT fisheries. CPCs sought clarification regarding observer coverage and Albania confirmed that a regional observer and national observer would be present. The Secretariat confirmed that unless a request was made in line with *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04] to have a native Albanian speaker then the regional observer would speak English.

Algeria

Algeria presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan, with improvements based, among others, on regional observer comments last year. They noted that their quota allocated for 2015 would be distributed amongst Algerian tuna vessels that will comply with the regulatory requirements. Algeria recalled that its fishing capacity was less than its historical quota. No questions or concerns on Algeria's plan were raised by the Group.

China

China presented their plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan. Only one longline vessel will operate this year. They clarified that VMS would be transmitted every four hours. No questions or concerns on China's plan were raised by the Group. After their presentation, China asked whether a bluefin tuna vessel wanting to transship to a container vessel in port would count as a transshipment or a landing. Later the representative from China was informed that this was a question for the Commission rather than Panel 2. They also asked for some assistance on how to implement eBCD for this year. No answer was given to the eBCD question, as it is more appropriate to discuss at the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting.

Egypt

Egypt presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan, but in line with [Rec. 14-04]. Several CPCs asked questions of Egypt, including their intent to use stereoscopic cameras, whether or not they were setting aside an artisanal or by-catch quota, and the size and capacity of the fishing vessels mentioned. Egypt clarified that they will use cameras jointly with other CPCs during JFOs and that no caging takes place in Egyptian waters. They also noted that they did not have an artisanal fishery nor have they had by-catch in previous years, so no quota was set aside for these categories of catch. Upon request from the Group, Egypt submitted the vessel size and capacity information for their two purse seiners to the Secretariat.

European Union

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its plan, emphasizing the importance of capacity management, generally, and the importance of the use of stereoscopic cameras to monitor caging operations. The EU received a question on farmed bluefin tuna with a high growth rate in Croatia. The EU welcomed further bilateral discussion on the fish in question and the Group agreed that the SCRS should evaluate the possible growth and if needed, the issue could be discussed again in the Compliance Committee. A question was also raised regarding the number of purse seiners and there was some debate regarding the applicability of Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 45, which the EU used as justification for additional purse seiner authorized by the EU. After discussion the Group agreed that the EU had correctly interpreted the paragraph. A final question was raised regarding a BCD of a fish from the trap fishery issued after the trap in question had closed. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed bilaterally and if needed at the Compliance Committee or Commission level because the issue could be regarding the definition of farming.

Having heard the EU highlight the use of stereoscopic cameras, one CPC reminded the Group of past data deficiencies regarding the use of stereoscopic cameras and requested all CPCs who farm to submit their data to the SCRS by 15 September 2015 so that further analysis can take place.

In response to a question from a CPC on the distribution of the fishing quota of the Member States of the European Union among their fishers, before the Panel 2/Compliance Committee intersessional meeting, the European Union confirmed that certain Member States had indeed already distributed their quotas among their fishers but that this distribution could be adjusted according to the outcome of this meeting.

Iceland

Iceland began their presentation noting that they have not had active capacity management in place for many years, but instead have chosen to focus on controlling catch and asked other CPCs to consider that experience and the overall goal of the Commission in ongoing discussions of capacity management. Iceland then outlined their plans for issuing a license. They also noted that given their data collection and notification methods, there may be situations where the fishery management plan may change in less than 48 hours before a modification comes into force, such as when an unexpected by-catch is landed. They also noted that their VMS transmission rate would be four hours. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Iceland responded that they had difficulties interpreting the measure but that the vessel required written permission to leave the port and they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days. Iceland also noted that they welcomed any additional information on the interpretation of the Recommendation and will change their implementation if needed.

Japan

Japan presented its 2014 plan, highlighting their legally binding individual quota system and their reduced capacity since 2008. One CPC asked for clarification on fishery capacity, since Japan's original report listed capacity in GRT. Japan agreed to submit changes to their table to align their table to the information in other CPC plans.

Korea

Korea presented its plan, noting that they would not be fishing in 2015. One CPC asked for clarification as to whether any by-catch would be deducted from its quota. Korea noted that it would, but that by-catch was not likely to occur because of the location and gear of their other fisheries. Another CPC asked Korea if the transfer of fishing quota from 2015 to 2016 was sufficient in sanctioning the vessel in question. Korea responded that it was not decided which Korean vessel would be allocated with the transferred quota.

Libya

Libya attended the last session of the meeting. The CPCs present reviewed Libya's plan submitted by the required deadline. A letter will be sent to Libya requesting further clarification on the vessels engaged in the fishery, as the report mentioned 14 purse seiners but the fishery capacity plan indicated 17 purse seiners and one long liner were also a part of the fishery. A response will be requested by [9 March 2015] so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2015, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

Morocco

Morocco presented its plan, noting that it was similar to their 2014, but with the addition of on small long liner and a trap in accordance with Recommendation 14-04. One CPC sought confirmation that stereoscopic cameras would be used on all caging operations. Morocco confirmed it. A small correction was requested to the fishery capacity table where two numbers were inadvertently switched.

Norway

Norway presented its plan, noting their exploratory fishery and intent to increase that fishery from one vessel to two vessels (either one purse seiner and one long liner or two long liners). After questions were raised by some CPCs on this intent to raise the capacity, Norway elaborated further noting that they have effective control of all of their current fishery, they last had a bluefin tuna fishery in 1986, they have a large EEZ, and the exploratory fishery in 2014 indicated that it was difficult for one vessel to cover their area. Norway noted that they were waiting for approval of the fishing plan to open up applications to vessels and that once chosen, they would inform the Executive Secretary. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level for longliners, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Norway responded that they had not been sure regarding this interpretation and they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days.

Syria

Syria was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Syria's plan. A letter will be sent to Syria requesting a capacity table in the Secretariat-provided format. The letter will also note that ICCAT is not responsible for paying for regional observers. A response will be requested by [9 March 2015] so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2015, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

A brief discussion was held regarding the unwillingness of the regional observer program to send an observer to Syria and possibility to use a national observer. While understanding the difficult situation and the timing, it was noted that this was not the purview of this meeting to grant an exemption and that a written intersessional commission-level consideration would be more appropriate to resolve the issue.

Tunisia

Tunisia presented its plan, highlighting its capacity plans, including that of its farms, and inspection plans. No questions or concerns on Tunisia's plan were raised by the Group.

Turkey

Discussion on Turkey's plan began with the Chair noting Turkey's objection and reminding the Panel that Turkey was not seeking endorsement of their alternative conservation and management plan, but rather than Turkey was presenting it for informational purposes and to answer any questions on the plan outside of their objection. Turkey then outlined their plan in the context of their objection, noting that what they presented to the Panel was prepared and submitted in accordance with Resolution 12-11 and stressed that outside of the autonomous allocation they planned to be in full compliance with Recommendation 14-04. In addition to what was written in their plan, they noted that they planned to have a VMS transmission of every two hours, a specific percentage of their autonomous allocation would be set aside for by-catch, and stereoscopic cameras would be used for all caging operations. During their initial presentation and subsequent interventions, Turkey expressed that in their view it was inappropriate for this Panel to prejudge and discuss trade actions regarding their legal objection.

Despite Turkey not seeking endorsement or discussion of their objection in this fora, discussion was robust on the implications of Turkey's objection for other CPCs and how resolution of these issues fit into the intersessional meeting mandate and future actions by the Commission. All CPCs in the discussion recognized Turkey's right to lodge an objection, but many expressed discontent at the decision to declare an autonomous allocation and the potential of Turkey's decision to undermine the recovery of the eastern bluefin tuna stock and the Commission as a whole. Some CPCs noted that although certain issues may be more appropriately addressed by the Commission, as a whole, resolution of the issue could not wait for nine months.

Several CPCs noted that although they weren't particularly happy with the outcome of the allocation, they did not formally object and declare an autonomous allocation because of their commitment to the Commission and expressed concern about the possibility of no repercussions for Turkey's actions.

The delegation of Morocco thanked the honourable delegation of Japan for clarifying the official position of its country regarding bluefin tuna trade based on autonomous quotas.

It stated that during the Commission meeting, in Genoa, each of the Parties had used all means necessary to reach a consensus so that the CPCs concerned accepted the fishing possibilities of eastern bluefin tuna. Undoubtedly, most of these CPCs were not satisfied but it was a compromise to guarantee sustainability, to ensure preservation of the stocks – and naturally ICCAT's credibility – and to avoid any risk in relation to CITES.

This is why the Kingdom of Morocco appeals to the wisdom of all CPCs to continue to use the path of dialogue in order to avoid jeopardising the efforts deployed by the Commission over more than a decade.

Pew made an intervention asking the Panel to concentrate on scientific advice in discussions, noting that any further increase in allocation would push the TAC beyond levels of maximum sustainable yield, which might threaten the recovery plan.

Several specific questions and legal and technical issues were raised, many of which could not be answered concretely during the meeting. Morocco asked the Panel for guidance regarding whether or not product resulting from JFOs with Turkey would be allowed as imports into markets, asking individual CPCs if they would allow such a product. Although not responding directly to the JFO issue, Japan noted that there could be consequences for imports from CPCs declaring autonomous allocations, like Turkey, especially if catch from that CPC exceeded the agreed allocation. The European Union shared the concern expressed by Japan and declared that it will not hesitate to examine the tools available to ensure that unsustainable fish do not enter the EU market. The European Union also expressed the view that product from Turkey could be subject to market measure provisions of Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 94, which provides for the prohibition of certain activities, including importing, exporting, and landing, of eastern bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels "whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures", based on their interpretation that Turkey does not have a quota for eastern bluefin tuna because of its objection. Turkey expressed considerable concern over this interpretation and the interventions regarding potential impacts on imports of Turkish bluefin tuna products without further discussion on the legal status of their product considering the rights and obligations under international law. Another question raised was in regards to the implementation of eBCD and whether or not catch from Turkey, particularly catch above their original allocation would be allowed in the eBCD system.

There was considerable discussion regarding the need to gain both technical and legal advice on the various points raised by CPCs, which could not take place fully during the meeting. At the end of discussion, the Chair expressed the view that this is not a decision making body and that the Panel did not come to consensus on any advice to the Commission on these issues.

The European Union expressed the opinion that in light of Turkey's objection to Recommendation 14-04, Recommendation 13-07 would apply, meaning that Turkey needed a formally endorsed fishing and capacity management plan in order to avoid potential suspension of fishing. The European Union called for a Commission decision to be taken in line with paragraph 11 of Recommendation 13 07. This view was noted, but the Chair affirmed his opinion, and the Panel agreed that the Panel should follow precedence from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona. Therefore, this meeting reviewed the plan but in accordance to past practice, did not take any action regarding endorsement of Turkey's plan respecting Turkey's right to formal objection and Turkey's assertion that they were not seeking endorsement.

Turkey's positions on these matters are attached in **Appendix 7**.

Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Chinese Taipei's plan. No questions or concerns on Chinese Taipei's plan were raised by the Group.

Statement by the ICCAT Chair

The Executive Secretary made the following statement provided by the ICCAT Chair to the participants:

I invite all CPCs to act as responsible producers and responsible market states with a long term view and hence to respect joint decisions. If not, we risk to lose the confidence that has been built up in ICCAT painfully by all CPCs in recent years. Thank you for your cooperation.

Discussion of the document on Adjusted Quotas for 2015 [PA2-007]

During each CPCs presentation, their adjusted quota from the Adjusted Quotas for 2015 [PA2-007] was highlighted and is attached as **Appendix 4**. During general discussion, the Secretariat noted they had included in that document a paragraph on the western stock, noting the different rules regarding reporting of the adjusted quota. The United States noted that this point was more appropriate for discussion at the Integrated Monitoring Measure Working Group meeting, as the eBCD Working Group was already talking about the issue and that the paragraph should not remain in this document. The Chair agreed to take the paragraph out.

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

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Albania, Algeria, China, Egypt, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Norway and Tunisia. Chinese Taipei's plan was also endorsed.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Libya and Syria. Responses to these letters will be requested by 9 March 2015 and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 31 March 2015, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04 to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2015 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plans will be deemed endorsed.

Although debated by the Group, past practice from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona was followed regarding Turkey's plan and it was deemed that action by Panel 2 was "not applicable" in light of Turkey's legal objection.

6. Clarification of Regional Observer duties and requirements during the 2015 purse seine season

The Group reviewed several requests for clarification of the provisions of Recommendation 14-04, including a list of potential non-compliance (PNC) issues as outlined in the List of Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Events to be Reported by ROP-BFT Observers [PA2-003], attached as **Appendix 5** and a list of questions from the consortium, as outlined in MRAG: Request for Clarification on Rec. 14-04 [PA2-004], attached as **Appendix 6**.

Regarding the list of potential non-compliance issues, several minor changes were suggested, including that “transshipment in port” should read “transshipment in unauthorized port” and “landing in port” should be “landing in unauthorized port”. There was also discussion on the item “fish below minimum size transferred” and a couple of CPCs noted this would be an issue in light of their discard ban. For now this item will be kept in the list, but it will be noted to the consortium that some CPCs have discard bans. It was also suggested that the Secretariat work with the Compliance Committee Chair to package the potential PNCs in a way that is easier for the Compliance Committee to analyze at the Annual meeting.

To answer the questions of the consortium outlined in the MRAG: Request for Clarification on Rec. 14-04 [PA2-004], the Panel addressed all questions and the clarifications are contained in the revised document, attached as **Appendix 6**.

The Group also reviewed the Requirements for implementing the ROP-BFT. The Secretariat noted that although the requirements could not be changed, any issues raised during the intersessional or sent to the Secretariat would be addressed with the consortium. Several CPCs, while acknowledging the importance of the ROP, shared concerns and recent problems they have had with the consortium, including late notification of PNCs, communication issues due to language differences, and unprofessional behavior of some observers. Morocco and Tunisia requested that the consortium send observers fluent in Arabic on board Moroccan vessels and Tunisian farms during the caging and harvesting operations of bluefin tuna. The Secretariat noted that difficulties will always be present in this kind of program, including issues with language, work visas, reporting standards and other difficulties faced in meeting all the requirements of the ROP, but agreed to share all concerns and requests with the consortium.

7. Other matters

Syria Request for Carryover

It was determined that Syria’s request to carryover their quota from previous years should be discussed at the Commission level as the issue is outside of the purview of this Group.

Turkey Pilot Bluefin Tuna Aquaculture Project

Turkey briefly presented the project, noting that the issue on how to handle the potential trade of the product was raised at the last Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group intersessional meeting and wasn’t discussed at that meeting or the Annual meeting due to schedule. Japan mentioned their own aquaculture situation for Pacific bluefin tuna and their interest in hearing a full report on the project before discussing how ICCAT should handle the issue. Iceland also raised a question regarding whether or not ICCAT’s original text gave the Commission any mandate to regulate such aquaculture product. The discussion was not resolved and it was agreed that Turkey would provide more details on the project and CPCs would have appropriate experts review the question on mandate.

Catch by Gibraltar

One CPC raised a media report indicating bluefin tuna catch from Gibraltar, asking if other CPCs or the Secretariat had more information. The Executive Secretary explained that there was a media report stating that Gibraltar had decided to allocate itself a quota for bluefin tuna. He pointed out that Gibraltar was not a Contracting Party to ICCAT and that this issue would require discussion at Commission level. The EU reaffirmed that they did not represent Gibraltar in any case.

By-catch by Greenland and Faroe Islands

Iceland had information on by-catches of bluefin tuna in 2014 by Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Bluefin tuna landed in Iceland by Greenland had been confiscated. Iceland noted that they reached out to Greenland and asked them to report the catches to ICCAT. The Secretariat confirmed that they received some information from Greenland, but have not yet heard back since requesting information in Task I format. The Secretariat also noted that the Faroe Islands used to report until 2004 and Iceland said they would follow up bilaterally with them.

8. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The report of Panel 2 was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2015 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.
6. Clarification of Regional Observer duties and requirements during the 2015 purse seine season
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment.

Appendix 2

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BLUEFIN FISHING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLANS [PA2-002]**ALBANIA**

Based on the Recommendation 14-04 which amends the ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota, allocated to Albania for 2015 is 39.65 tons (paragraph 5 of the Recommendation).

The fishing vessel "ROZAFa 15" owned by Gjergj LUCA, with NIPT number: K 48130547V, registered to Port Authority by No. P-446, with NFR: ALB22REG0649, supplied with Fishing License No. LC-4153-03-2014, of date 07.04.2014, with ICCAT No. AT000ALB00008, to perform the bluefin tuna fishery in the amount of 39.65 tons in sea area: GSA 18, the fishing form: pelagic, with fishing gears: purse seiners and landing the production on the Shëngjini fishing port, every day, about 18.00 o'clock.

Vessel characteristics:

Fishing Vessel: "ROZAFa 15"
 Gross tonnage: 160 t
 Length: 34.8 m
 Width: 6.4 m
 Immersion: 3 m
 Engine: 977.Hp
 Crew: 5
 IRCS: ZADP9

According to paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, each state must develop the fisheries annual plan of the allocated quota by authorized vessel in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, identifying quotes for each fishing form, fishing gears group, the method used for quota allocation and management, the measures taken to ensure compliance with the quota and by-catches.

The obligations for the authorized vessel:

Fishing vessel "ROZAFa-15" will develop fishing with purse seiners of the amount of 39.65 tons, in the period from 26 May to 24 June, and is obliged:

- To fish only the amount for which it is quoted;
- To proceed immediately to Shengjini port once estimated that the quota is exhausted;
- Do not use aircrafts for bluefin tuna detecting at sea;
- Do not fish, keep on board, transship, transfer, landing, transport, store, sell or offer for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation;
- The captain of the fishing vessel should keep on board the electronic log book, to fill and communicate fishing data every day, even when the result is zero (Annex 2 of the Recommendation);
- 4 hours prior entry into port, to announce the port authorities the following information:
 - a) The estimated time to enter to the port;
 - b) The estimated amount of tuna retained on board;
 - c) Information on the geographical area where the catch was taken.
- If the fishing zone is nearly than 4 hours from the port, the announcement should be done immediately;

- After each trip and within 48 hours the master of fishing vessel should submit the landing declaration to the competent authorities of Shengjini fishing harbor and fishery inspectorate of the Port, with a tolerance of 48 hours from the landings;
- To not undertake the transshipment action of fished bluefin tunas;
- To keep active the VMS system communication which should start 15 days before the fishing season until 15 days after its completion, without interruption, even when in port. The VMS messages have to be transmitted at least every four hours;
- To provide, through direct communication with ICCAT of the presence of the regional ICCAT observers on board (observer/local fishery inspector, based on ICCAT Regional Program on observation).

The obligations of Fishery Authority in Ministry

- To take the appropriate measures to ensure the allocated fishing quotas;
- To require to the authorized fishing vessel to proceed immediately to the designed fishery port (Shěngjìn) when the allocated quota is exhausted;
- Do not allow the chartering actions of fished bluefin tuna;
- To transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the data's on the authorization vessel for fishing of tuna quota allocated, at least 10 days before starting of fishing operations;
- To provide the ICCAT Secretariat with all the required forms according the list of Reporting Requirements from ICCAT;
- To not allow the authorized entities to use aircrafts for bluefin tuna detecting over the sea;
- To take action to avoid fishing, keeping on board, the transshipment, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling or offering for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length, up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation; Only an amount up to 5% of the quantity may be allowed to be in the above parameters;
- Do not allow more than 5% by-catches of tuna fish from tuna's inactive vessels. However, the amount of tuna that comes from by-catches should be considered part of the annual bluefin tuna fishing quotas;
- To send to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least 15 days before starting the fishing season, the list of authorized vessels, according to ICCAT format;
- To inform by 1 April the ICCAT Secretariat on the tuna fisheries for the past year, information which should include:
 - a) The name and number of ICCAT for each fishing vessel;
 - b) The authorized period for each fishing vessel;
 - c) The catches in total to each fishing vessel including the zero results on entire authorized period;
 - d) The number of fishing days per authorized vessel and authorized period;
 - e) Catches in total as by-catch outside the authorized period of authorized fishing vessels;
 - f) The name, the number of national registry vessels that are not authorized to active fishing tuna but have catch blue-fin tuna as by-catch,
 - g) The catches in total as by-catch from unauthorized vessels;
- To ensure that active fishing bluefin tuna's vessels, that are authorized, are communicating every day, in electronic way or by other information, the log book data's regarding their fishing activity to the port authorities and Fisheries Inspectorate of Shengjini port;
- On the bases of the above information to take proper measures to transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the weekly data for all vessels authorized;
- To report to the Secretariat of ICCAT the monthly data's on fisheries for bluefin tuna caught from active fishing vessels (authorized by it) and the by-catches by inactive fishing vessels for bluefin tunas;
- To report immediately to the ICCAT Secretariat of the closure of the bluefin tuna fishing when finds that the quotas is exhausted;

- To verify the VMS system functionality and its using by the authorized fishing vessel, especially 15 days before and 15 days after the tuna fishing season;
- To prohibit trading, marketing, landing, importation, exportation, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of bluefin tuna species of eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean which are not accompanied by proper documentation, accurate, completed, validated, fished within the season and conform allocated quota by authorized and non-authorized fishing vessels, as required by ICCAT Recommendation 14-04;
- To report to the ICCAT Secretariat on the implementation of Recommendation 14-04, until 15 October of this year;
- To ensure the presence of 20% of the period of fishing season of the observers or fishing inspectors on board of the authorized fishing vessel;
- To prepare a program with measures to be applied by Fisheries Inspectorate of Shëngjini port, the measures in case of violations and reporting as required by ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

Annex 1

Measures Programme to be Applied by Fishery Inspectorate of Shengjini

(Mr. Gjoke Deda)

Based on:

ICCAT Convention and Recommendation 14-04;

Annual fishing plan of bluefin tuna's quota for 2015;

The Minister's Order and Minister's Authorization, No.98/1, dated 10.02.2015.

The Fishing Vessel "Rozafa 15" is authorized to fish the bluefin tuna's quotas, as allocated from ICCAT to Albania, the amount of 39.65 ton for 2015.

The fishing form: pelagic, by purse seiners.

The authorized period is 26 May to 24 June 2015.

The landings of bluefin tuna fished will be every day about 18 o'clock in the fishing port of Shëngjini.

During this period, in addition to other duties that are listed in the Annual Fishing Plan and the Minister's Order, Fishery Inspector based on fishing port of Shengjini will priority to the implementation and make possible as follow:

- The authorized fishing vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of authorized fishing vessel notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the time when evaluates its entry into the port, the amount of tuna caught having on board, the geographical area where fished.

For this, fishery inspector takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and provide from the master the landing declaration which reflect the above data already specified (by weighting them) and not at random way.

This action should be daily for the authorized period

- Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by fishing vessel authorized and communicated data's as above, of the landing declarations in the fishing harbor, as well as other details that sees the reasonable. These data, fishery inspector shall communicate to the Fishery Resources Division, within 48 hours from landing fish products by authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure his assistance, through vessel boarding at least 20% of the authorized fishing vessel operations and fishing days.
- To prohibit the transshipment at sea of tuna products caught.
- To ensure that the master of fishing vessel fill correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- To not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the mouth to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector makes measurements of each fish tuna caught, just landed and verify the implementation of the foregoing obligation to weight/minimum size of fish caught.
- To check the functionality of the vessel into the VMS system and with non-stop signal, not interrupted even when in port. The VMS system signal should start 15 days before of starting the season, (according to authorization) and to terminate 15 days after its completion;
- To send to the fishery authorities in Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- To observe and identify and monitor any quantity of blue-fin tuna caught by other fishing vessels (as by-catch), also from the authorized fishing vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

ALGERIA

Pursuant to the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 13-07], Algeria hereby submits the following bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2015 fishing season.

In addition to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Algeria's 2015 fishing plan is also based on provisions contained in the national regulation, in particular those of the ministerial order of 19 March 2013 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for national flag vessels and sets out the methods for quota allocation and implementation.

Moreover, Algeria's bluefin fishing activities in 2015 will be carried out in accordance with the same provisions as those adopted for the previous campaigns while taking into account the fair comments made by ROP observers onboard Algerian tuna vessels in 2014, in particular in relation to the logbook format and the ISO code used by ICCAT for the bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).

1. Fishing plan

1.1 Quotas and the method used to allocate and manage quotas

Pursuant to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Algeria's quota for 2015 is 369.81 t. This quota will be distributed among the tuna vessels selected to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign and the national coastal artisanal vessels.

Indeed, 2% of the overall quota will be reserved for the coastal artisanal vessels, i.e. a partial quota of 7.4 t, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Annex 1 to the ICCAT recommendation referred to above.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to take part in the campaign will be established in accordance with national distribution criteria and taking into consideration the catch rates recommended by the SCRS. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadline (15 days before the campaign).

Algeria does not have any bluefin tuna recreational and sport fisheries.

2. Measures aimed at ensuring compliance with quotas

The 2015 bluefin tuna fishing plan will be implemented in compliance with all the management measures established in Recommendation 14-04.

2.1 Trade and joint fishing agreements

No private trade agreement and/or quota transfer/catch limits with other CPCs are authorised.

Joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys adopted for the 2015 campaign, will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

2.2 Fishing permits

In accordance with the Algerian regulation in force, individual fishing permits will be granted to purse seine vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign by the Fisheries Administration.

2.3 Fishing period

The fishing period for purse seine tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign will be that established by ICCAT provisions and fixed by the provisions of the national regulation, i.e. from 26 May to 24 June 2015.

In addition, and in the case where the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, Algeria's Fisheries Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

2.4 Minimum size

The minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, in accordance with the national regulation and the provisions of the ICCAT recommendations.

2.5 Incidental catches/by-catches

A 5% tolerance of by-catches of individuals weighing less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

2.6 Use of aircrafts

The use of aircrafts or helicopters for detecting bluefin tuna schools is prohibited.

2.7 Transshipment

The transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited under national legislation, in particular Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture.

2.8 Transfer operations

Transfer operations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

2.9 Trade measures

Algeria participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group and the different international implementation tests, and this year will implement this system, while maintaining in parallel the use of the paper-based bluefin tuna catch document (BCD), which will be validated by authorised individuals, as per the decision taken at the last ICCAT annual meeting.

3. Inspection Plan

3.1 National inspection

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2015 campaign. This programme consists of carrying out in port inspections of tuna vessels authorised to take part in the 2015 campaign, before and after the campaign, and deploying two national controllers/observers onboard each vessel during the fishing season.

The task, among others, of these controllers is to monitor all fishing and transfer operations, and to verify the information and data related to the fishing campaign recorded in the onboard documents and furthermore to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller will be required to submit campaign report at the end of the campaign.

The controllers will remain in permanent contact with the Fisheries Administration and will transmit all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, and in the context of continuity of the training programme implemented by Algeria for controllers in 2014, a training session is also scheduled this year prior to the campaign during which training will be given on the national regulation and ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing.

3.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System

The tuna vessels authorized to take part in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. The transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all the tuna vessels and must commence 15 days before the authorisation period and continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The reporting rate is every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

A monitoring centre of vessel VMS signals will be implemented by the Fisheries Administration throughout the fishing season.

3.1.2 Landing ports

The ports designated by the competent authorities for landing bluefin tuna where an inspection of the products to be landed and all onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant States institutions are the same as those of the previous two years, i.e. port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Béjaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran and port of Ténès.

3.2 Regional observers program

The owners of the tuna purse seine vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board, in accordance with the provisions of Commission recommendations.

In addition, and in the context of continuous improvement of the execution of bluefin fishing campaigns and as stated above, the observations made by ICCAT observers in 2014 will be taken into account in the 2015 campaign.

3.3 Joint international inspection plan

As Algeria does not have more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, it does not envisage participating in the joint international inspection.

4. Fishing capacity management plan

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 5.073% of the TAC, as represented in the table below. Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity in the bluefin tuna fishery.

For 2015, the fishing capacity will be adapted to Algeria's allocated quota which is 369.81 t.

Fishing capacity

Vessel type		Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
			Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity
Purse seiners	> 40 m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	[24-40m]	49.78	8	398.24	14	696.92	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58
	<24 m	33.68	0	0	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68
	Subtotal		8	398.24	15	730.6	12	581.26										
Longliners	> 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	[24-40m]	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	2	11.36	2	11.36	2	11.36
	<24 m	5	1	5	2	10	2	10	2	10	2	10	1	5	1	5	1	5
	Subtotal		2	10.68	3	15.68	3	15.68	3	15.68	3	15.68	3	16.36	3	16.36	3	16.36
Others	Baitboat	19.8	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
	Trawler	10	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
	Other (specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total capacity of fishing fleet			10	408.92	18	746.28	15	596.94	15	596.94	15	596.94	15	597.62	15	597.62	15	597.62
TAC				28500		22000		13500		12900		12900		13400		13400		16142
Allocated quota				1460.04		1117.42		684.9		138		138		243.83		243.83		369.81
Historical quota (5.073%)										654.03		654.03		679.38		679.38		818.39
Difference (historical quota - capacity)				1051.12		371.14		87.96		57.09		57.09		81.76		81.76		220.77

CHINA

1. BFT-1007 Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans for 2015

1.1 Fishing plan

Fishing vessel: China will dispatch only one longline fishing vessel, namely Jin Feng No.1, to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Fishing period: The vessel will shift to BFT fishing grounds to conduct fishing in the middle of August until the catch quota is exhausted, but before the end of December, and must land the catch in the designated port.

Fishing quota: China was allocated 45.09 metric tons of BFT for the 2015 fishing season.

The method used to allocate and manage quotas: Since only one fishing vessel will conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity in 2015, all the quotas China held will be allocated to this vessel.

Measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch: It is relatively simple to respect the quotas since all the quotas are allocated solely to Jin Feng No.1, and, through observer deployment, catch report, logbook, landing report, VMS and catch documentation, to ensure that the quotas are respected by this fishing vessel. Bluefin tuna by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels.

1.2 Enforcement Plan

Observers: 100% observer coverage will be implemented annually during the bluefin tuna fishing season; this coverage rate is higher than the ICCAT requirement for longline vessels. They will record the required data and discards, monitor catch, ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, as well as carry out other scientific work.

Data record and catch report: The logbook will be filled in every day or before port arrival. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to be recorded and reported, which has to contain the date, area of catch by latitude and longitude, fork length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers.

VMS requirement: Vessels will be equipped with a full-time operational vessel monitoring system onboard, and can be tracked and reported normally to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Transshipment: The bluefin tuna fishing vessel will only transship bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Mindelo of Cape Verde and Las Palmas of Spain are the ports that BFT caught by the China-flagged vessel will enter to tranship.

Cross checks and BCDs: Cross checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization of transshipment, transshipment declarations, and national observer as well as inspection reports will be made. In the case where the aforementioned records do not match the content of the BCD, the BCD shall be rejected by the government.

1.3 Capacity Management Plan

Despite the increase of nearly 20% in BFT catch for 2015 compared to 2014, the base catch that China holds is very low, therefore the quota allocated to China is still very small. In order to make the allocated quota commensurate with the fishing capacity, the number of fishing vessel continues to be one in 2015.

2. BFT-1011 Bluefin tuna catches for 2014

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP38).

3. BFT-1012 Bluefin tuna catching vessels for 2015

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP01).

4. BFT-1020 Bluefin tuna transshipment ports for 2015

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP24). For information only, China will authorize the China-flagged BFT vessel to tranship BFT catch in these designated ports. We will ask our fishing vessel owner to contact the competent authority of Port States to include these ports in the list of designated ports.

EGYPT**Allocation of BFT catch quota:**

Fishing, activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and in accordance to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that adopted in the special meetings of ICAAT (Genoa, November 2014, Paragraph 5), the quota allocated for Egypt is 95.20, in addition to 60 (10+50) ton transferred to Egypt from Chinese Taipei and Korea respectively, i.e. the total amount of tuna that can be fished in 2015 fishing season as a total is (155.20 ton).

This total amount will be divided for the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are 'seven seas' which is listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) and vessel "khaled" that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005) according to the following scheme.

<i>Vessel</i>	<i>Allocated Quota (t)</i>
<i>Seven Seas</i>	80
<i>Khaled</i>	75.20

General authority for fish resources development (GAFRD) announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the general authority for fish resources development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

Potential fishing grounds:

The potential fishing ground for the E-BFT fishery will be off the fishing area along the Egyptian territorial and EEZ water, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

List of authorized BFT catching vessels:

The general authority for fish resources development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2015. These vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

Licensing:

A special fishing permit, which will be issued by the provincial directorates of GAFRD for the eligible purse seiners to conduct the bluefin tuna fishery, is mandatory for bluefin tuna catching vessels to operate for 2015 season. There are no towing licenses will be issued, as well as the transshipment operations are not allowed.

Coastal recreational, sport fisheries:

There is no coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

Fishing capacity of Egypt

<i>Type</i>	<i>Catch Rate (t)</i>	<i>Number of vessels</i>								<i>Fishing capacity (t)</i>							
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PS >40m	70.7																
PS (24-40m)	49.78																
PS (<24m)	33.7	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
Total PS Vessel		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
LL >40m	25																
LL (24-40m)	5.68																
LL (<24m)	5																
Total LL Vessel																	
Total fleet					1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
Quota										0	50.00	33.00	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	79.2
Under/overcapacity										0			-30.88	-30.88	-9.68	-9.68	-11.8

Inspections

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

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

Regulations for 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season

Fishing Period:

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2015. The bluefin tuna fishing activities prohibited along the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next years. Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.

Joint Fishing Operations

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two Egyptian vessels, also joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if JFO requested by our fishing companies.

BFT Landing/Transshipment Ports:

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catch in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority for the purpose of bluefin tuna landing:

1. ElMeAdia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only,
2. Alexandria commercial port for export and import tuna.

Vessel Monitoring System Requirements

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2015 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD.

Recording and Reporting

Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.

Towing Operations

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels. Live tuna transfer to other CPC towing vessel for the purpose of caging will be authorized. The prior transfer request shall be implemented.

Caging Operations

There is no caging operations in the Egyptian water.

Transfer Operations

In case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purposes in other CPCs, a percent of selected live fish caught randomly shall be killed at time of capture, sized and weighted for sampling as required in paragraph 8 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-4. The size of the sample that is intended to be killed for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs in Mediterranean for better estimation and sampling programs at time of caging.

In case of JFO with other CPC this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented, in 2015 eBCD will be used.

Transshipment

Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 13-07.

Cross check

The relevant 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 and VMS data- onboard vessels and at ports.

GAFRD shall carry out cross checks on all landings, between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes. As will document cross checking with the other CPCs be carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

Enforcement

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of Bluefin tuna:

Decree Number (827) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 of June to 25 of May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.

Article (2) the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for the purposes of farming and development.

Decree Number (828) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.

Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through video documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except for the port of ELMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.

Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

In the case of noncompliance 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 fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of noncompliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

Market Measures

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

Observer Requirements

Two 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 ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions.

The permanent observers in ports to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports.

Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observers for the two authorized vessels (100%).

Use of aircraft

- There is no aircraft.

Minimum size

- Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implanted.

Sampling Requirements

In the case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purpose in other CPCs, part of the live fish caught shall be killed for sampling as required in ICCAT Recommendation 10-04, where randomly selected samples of fish shall be killed, sized and weighted, the size of the sampling percentage that is intended to be killed at time of capture for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs for better estimation and the sampling program at time of caging.

In case of JFO with other CPC this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

Summary: Framework of MCS for bluefin tuna fishery, transfer and trading

Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- BFT catching /two vessel to be registered in ICATT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- BFT joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPC. JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels "In case of their request",
- BCD scheme requirements,
- Logbook requirements,
- 100% ICATT ROP-BFT coverage,
- Video footage,
- Cross-checks for verifications.

Transfer

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorized,
- Video Footage,
- Cross - checks for verifications,
- 100% ICATT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessel),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessel),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICATT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.

Export

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization,
- Representatives coverage,
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used.

Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

EUROPEAN UNION

Capacity Management Plan

<i>Catch Rate</i>		<i>No. of Vessels and Traps</i>		<i>Capacity (t)</i>	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch Rate</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2015</i>
PS large (>40m)	70.7	38	31	2,685	2,190
PS med. (24-40m)	49.8	91	13	4,530	647
PS small (≤24m)	33.7	112	1	3,772	34
<i>PS total</i>		<i>241</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10,987</i>	<i>2,871</i>
LL med. (24-40m)	5.7 t	7	5	40	28
LL small (≤24m)	5.0 t	329	136	1,645	680
<i>LL total</i>		<i>336</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>1,685</i>	<i>708</i>
Baitboat*	19.8 t	68	23	1,343	454
Handline*	5.0 t	101	42	505	210
Trawler	10.0 t	160	57	1,600	570
Other artisanal*	5.0 t	253	398	1,265	1,990
Total		1,159	706	17,385	6,804
Trap	130.0	15	14	1,950	1,820
Total		1,174	720	19,335	8,624

* Within these categories and for the area delimited by 27°N to 29°N and 13°W to 18°W in the Eastern Atlantic, the fishing season shall start on 1 March 2015 and shall end on 30 June 2015.

Fishing Plan

Background

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009¹ on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05]. Following Recommendation by ICCAT [Rec. 10-04] amending ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 08-05] adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 10-04] into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan which took place under ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. These additional measures were transposed into EU Regulation 544/2014. Finally, the EU is currently in the process of transposing ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 14-04] into EU law.

The EU is committed to follow the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec.14-04] in 2015.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [14-04], the quota for the EU in 2015 will be 9372,92 t.

Details

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU has drawn up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. Individual quotas are still being allocated by EU Member States authorities and will be applicable to all purse-seiners irrespective of their length.
- All purse seine vessels over 24 metres will be allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SRCS catch rates as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[5204,64 t]
Longliners	[719,545 t]
Bait boats and trolling boats and line vessels	[1376,82 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[169 t]
Traps	[1266,4 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[221,38 t]

- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' in accordance with paragraph 52 of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04],
- The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [11-21].

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2015 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Recommendation [14-04].

¹ OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

Inspection Plan

1. Introduction

The European Union actively fishes eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) with a range of fishing gears with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors.

The EU contains 8 Member States which actively fish bluefin tuna across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection fall on different actors across Member States and in many cases involve a combination of various competent authorities.

ICCAT introduced a comprehensive set of conservation and management measures for E-BFT under the 2006 multi-annual recovery plan. Amendments in 2008, 2010 and more recently in 2012 and 2014 have significantly reinforced the recovery plan which operates in parallel with an extensive catch documentation programme introduced in 2007 and subsequently amended in 2009 and 2011. The full implementation of the new electronic BCD programme (eBCD) throughout 2015 will further strengthen this suite of management and conservation measures.

The European Commission coordinates with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member State law and fully enforced.

2. Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2015 by the EU

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) covering the period 16 March 2014 to 15 March 2018 to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery.

Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for Bluefin tuna

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) who will adopt their 2015 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bringing the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect. It covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land and traps and farms and as in previous years the 2015 plan brings together the European Commission, Member States and the EFCA and draws on the resources of the eight EU Member States involved in the fishery.

Operationally the EU will coordinate joint inspection and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircraft. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2015 JDP-BFT 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 anticipated number of days of patrols in 2015 is provided in table 1. These patrols particularly focus on, but are not restricted to, the fishing seasons for Purse Seiners. In 2015, the EU will conduct around 215 days of Sea patrols and additional 36 days of air surveillance in the context of the joint deployment plan.

Table 1. Numbers of days of Sea Patrol and Air surveillance per area in 2015.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Days of Sea Patrols</i>	<i>Days of Air Surveillance</i>
Western Mediterranean	95	18
Centre Mediterranean	73	13
Eastern Mediterranean	23	5
Eastern Atlantic	24	

The Steering Group, composed by representatives of the EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, provides advice on the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation.

The joint control, inspection and surveillance activities carried out under the JDP are coordinated by the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) whose headquarters are based in the EFCA in Vigo, Spain. The TJDG is composed of national coordinators designated by the Member States and supported by the EFCA's own coordinators.

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 under Recommendation [14-04].

In order to enhance the monitoring and control strategy used in the JDP the EFCA is also cooperating with other EU agencies including EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) through the Marsurv-3 project. Marsurv-3 is an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, AIS and other maritime related data, such as sightings. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment.

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 recently adopted, including Annex 9 of Rec. 14-04, are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. In 2015, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras.

Member States National Control Action Programmes

Under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme, EU Member States have each developed and submitted a National Control Action Program for 2015. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategy they intend to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (Commission Decision No.17172014), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks', which include in particular:

- 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) the control of all documents required by the legislation applicable to bluefin tuna, in particular verifying the reliability of the information recorded.

These Specific Control and Inspection Programmes and are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [14-04].

European Commission inspections

Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lies with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors. Whilst different in their powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfillment of their duties and obligations, including those under the bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT recommendations concerning bluefin tuna.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2015 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2015.

Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor submissions on an hourly basis 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.

3. Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2015 the EU will once again seek to establish and further promote cooperation and coordination with other Contracting Parties (CPCs) in the Mediterranean concerning the exchange of monitoring, control and surveillance methods and information, as illustrated by the organization by EFCA of a workshop on bluefin tuna controls, open to all CPCs.

ICELAND

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland. The vessel cannot be regarded as a designated tuna vessel as it has a quota for other fish species in Icelandic waters and only engages in bluefin tuna fisheries part of the year.

The longliner fishing for bluefin tuna in 2014 participated in the fisheries for 4 weeks, after which the quota of Iceland was fully fished and the season closed.

In 2015 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One longline vessel will be allocated 32 tonnes of bluefin tuna.
- 2 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for recreational fisheries.
- 2.57 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

The longliner will be allocated an individual, non-transferrable quota. In 2015 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel.

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, with an observer from the Directorate of Fisheries present. No transshipments will be allowed.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present onboard for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate the on relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors.

The longline fishing season starts 1 August and ends 31 December 2015. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and a sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches. 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 quota is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires, else the licence expires 31 December 2015.

Recreational fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed from 16 June to 14 October. Vessels participating in the recreational fisheries need to have a special EA-BFT licence from the Directorate of Fisheries. All landings by recreational fishers shall be notified to the Directorate of Fisheries before landing and shall be monitored by an inspector and registered into the central database of the Directorate. The vessels will be allocated a common pool quota of 2 tonnes.

All discards of dead commercial species are banned on the Icelandic fleet, all bycatches are to be landed and recorded. Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches are to be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

In 2015 2.57 tonnes of bluefin tuna quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches.

JAPAN

1. Fishing Plan

a) Fishing Vessel Type

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs).

b) Management Period

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) will continue to manage its allocation based on the Japanese fishing season, which is, in the case of the 2015 allocated quota, from August 1st 2015 to July 31st 2016.

c) Quota

Japan's quota for the 2015 fishing season is 1390.44 t (including 45t transferred from Korea). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has amended the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding individual quota system for 2015.

d) Number of Authorized Fishing Vessels

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch bluefin tuna for 2015 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the vessel names, amount of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing season begins (paragraph 52 of Rec.14-04).

e) Catch Report

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to report daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day of their catch in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight and tag numbers (Paragraph 66 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ has developed a database in order to monitor up-to-date status of catch against individual quota on a vessel by vessel basis based on their daily reports.

f) Tagging Program

The Minister will also continue to require fishing operators to affix valid plastic tag to each bluefin tuna brought on board a fishing vessel and retained. The tag must be identifiable by the particular fishing year, vessel's call sign, and a serial number in the order of catch throughout the fishing season.

g) Transshipment

The Minister will continue to prohibit from transshipping bluefin tuna at sea and allow transshipment only at ports registered to ICCAT by the Ordinance and as a condition on the licenses (Paragraph 58 of Rec. 14-04).

h) Port landing

The Minister will continue to prohibit from overseas landing of bluefin tuna, and allow landing only in eight domestic ports which the Minister has designated by the Ordinance for enforcement purpose. At the eight ports, landing bluefin tuna will be inspected 100% by government official inspectors who will check actual total weight, individual tuna's tag and count the number of bluefin tuna and compare with the previously reported data including daily report.

i) Closed Fishing Season

The Minister will continue to prohibit the operators from bluefin tuna fishing 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 of June to 31 December by the Ordinance (Paragraph 18 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data (Paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04).

j) Observers

FAJ will ensure observers onboard at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated bluefin tuna quota (Paragraph 88 of Rec. 14-04).

2. Inspection Plan

a) National Inspection

FAJ, as the authorized government agency, will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2015 (Paragraph 99 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ will also continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all bluefin tuna landings at the designated ports (Paragraph 63 of Rec. 14-04). In the case that violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five year suspension to allocate bluefin tuna individual quota.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Japan, as a CPC having more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, will have its own inspection vessel in the Convention area when its bluefin tuna fishing vessels are operating in the Convention area.

3. Fishing Capacity Plan

The Minister will allocate each LSTLV an individual quota more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40m) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 14-04, will ensure that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

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Fishing capacity of Japan

		<i>No. of Vessels</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
Type	Catch rates (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PS (>40m)	70.7																
PS (24-40m)	49.78																
PS (<24m)	33.68																
Total PS Vessel																	
LL (>40m)	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
LL (24 - 40m)	5.68																
LL (<24m)	5																
Total LL Vessel		49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
Baitboat	19.8																
Handline	5																
Trawler	10																
Trap	130																
Other	5																
Total capacity		49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
Quota		2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44
Adjusted quota		2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44

REPUBLIC OF KOREA**Fishing Plan and Allocation of BFT Catch Quota**

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, the Republic of Korea submits its plans of fishing, inspection and capacity management to the ICCAT.

Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 95.03 tons in 2015 adopted in the special meeting of ICCAT (Genova, November 2014). However, in accordance with the paragraph 5bis of the Recommendation, Korea transferred 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt will transfer 25 t and 25 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Likewise, Korea transferred 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan will transfer 25 t and 20 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Therefore, Korea is not allowed to fish bluefin tuna in 2015. Please refer to the following Korea's quota table in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Original quota</i>	95.08 t	113.66 t	136.46 t
<i>Adjusted quota</i>	0 t	163.66 t (113.66 + 50)	181.46 t (136.46 + 45)

With regard to by-catch management, Korean fishing vessels should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by the Korean fishing vessels should not be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to our authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT.

Inspection Plan

Korea has no scheme of Joint International Inspection plan.

Fishing Capacity Plan

Since Korea has no fishing plan in 2015, fishing capacity plan is not applicable to Korea. However, Korea will submit its plan in 2016 when it resumes bluefin tuna fishing operation.

LIBYA

Following ICCAT Rec. 14-04 amending ICCAT Rec. 13-07 adopted at 2014 ICCAT Annual meeting in Genoa, Libya adopted the Ministerial Decree No. 205/2013 amending the Decree No. 61/2010 transposing the latest adopted ICCAT Recommendations.

Although Rec. 14-04 will enter into force in June 2015, Libya presents its 2015 fishing plan according to both Rec. 13-07 & 14-04 and will also fully implement the new Recommendations in 2015.

Fishing Fleet

The number of fishing vessels which will participate in E-BFT catching for the 2015 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 14 catching Vessels [14 purse seiners (PS), 20-40m and no long liners (LL)], no vessels less than 20m, no traps and sport/recreational fishing will participate in 2015 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2015, bluefin tuna fishing season are 8 (eight) vessels with no fishing gear on board, except transfer cage or services supplies.

Since the total allocated quota assigned to Libya in Rec.14-04 Para.5 is 1157.06 t, then the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in season 2015 will distribute as:

14 Purse seiners over 20 m authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in 2015, have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate, where (1,155 t) will be allocated between 14 PS (20- 40m) with 2.06 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **(Table 1)**, and any changes to this fishing possibilities allocation or vessels list will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

The authorized vessels expected to carry over fishing activities during 2015 season in working groups and the details of these groups and allocation key will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

Respecting individual quota limit shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checking with ROP and national observers on board fishing vessels.

All vessels deemed that its individual quota has been exhausted, it shall be ordered into port immediately.

Joint Fishing Operations

No JFOs with other CPC/s were requested in season 2015.

Farming (caging activities)

Libya has no farming activity in 2015.

Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) # 205/2013 amending the Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

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

Other Acts organize and manage bluefin tuna licenses.

Licensing

Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery authority based upon Decree, 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) for each vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 specifying the following condition as required by Rec. 14-04, as soon as the individual vessel quota is used, it will be required to return to its home port and its fishing permit will be withdrawn.

*Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, Article 3/Decree #205/2013).

*Individual Quota Acc. (Art. 11/Decree, #205/2013). *

* Log Book onboard Acc. (Art. 28/Decree, #205/2013).

Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)

Following to the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 (Para. 87) and by Decree #205/2013/Art.18), all fishing vessels and other vessels active in bluefin tuna fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a full active VMS.

Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

Observers

Regional and national observers shall be placed on board all PS and authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 (Art. 14/Decree, #205/2013).

All authorized PS vessels have full deployment (100%) of ROP and National observers, also all tugs shall have a national observer's onboard.

Reporting of Catch

The Catch vessel Master shall communicate by electronic or other means to competent authorities a daily and weekly catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight (Art. 20/Decree #205/2013).

Daily, weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in bluefin tuna catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

Transfer

The catch vessel master shall request from the competent authorities an authorization to transfer bluefin tuna catch by email or fax, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and their final destination conformed and signed by regional observer and national observer.

A numbered transfer authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements by Para. 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77 of Rec. 14-04 is met.

In case there are indication of differences in estimated weight of fish including number died during transfer operation between ROP onboard the catching vessel and vessel master by more than 10%, or 5% in case of number of fish less than 30kgs an investigation will take place according to procedure stated by Para. 81 of Recommendation 14-04.

All bluefin tuna transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and copy shall be on board of tug boat and another copy shall be handed to ROP and vessel master (Art. 24/decree #205/2013).

Vessel master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to fishery authority after confirming the data from ROP (Art. 25/Decree#205/2013).

Master of tug boat shall not leave transfer site before he received the original documents which proofs the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch vessels logbook (Art. 23/Decree#205/2013).

The master of fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag state competent authorities with the name, location and flag state of the farm to which the fish marketed (Art. 21/Decree #205/2013).

The master of catching vessel shall keep on board logbook of their operation and must complete by mid night every day all vessel activities information and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retain on board and to be landed in ports (Art. 25/Decree #205/2013).

Sampling Requirements

All catches transfers will be documented by video footages.

At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred shall be randomly sampled and killed to improve the counting and weight.

Libya shall require all operators of PS to transfer their catches only to farming units that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival to of towing cages to their farms.

Landing/Transshipments ports

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only land/transship bluefin tuna catches in ports designated by fishery authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli and Misurata) ports.

All vessels enter any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities (Art. 22/Decree #205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report (as stated in Para. 71 of Rec. 14-04).

Use of Air Craft

Use of Airplanes or helicopters to search for bluefin tuna is prohibited (Art. 10/Decree #205/2013).

Minimum Size

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30kg is prohibited (Art. 15/Decree 205/2013).

Catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted on Libyan quota

Market Measures

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of bluefin tuna and its products... which are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated BCD is prohibited (Art. 21& 24/Decree 205/2013).

Imposing of Sanction

Any non-compliance to the regulations regarding bluefin tuna fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree 205/2013/Art.17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota.

Fishery Inspection Plan

Controlling and Monitoring of Fisheries Activities in Libya are governed by Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, #14/1989, Decree #205/2013, transposing Rec. 14-04/Para. 97/Annex 7. The Coast Guard and Port Security Act, #229/2005 and considers the core legal documents which defines activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

Human Resources

Fishing Inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personals and in coordination with Port Authority.

Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of fishery Authority.

Central Control Room will be established during the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

Specific fisheries inspection tasks shall be planned including list relevant provisions of National and international regulations covering management of fishery resources also contains description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 14-04.

Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements till its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**). Considering the (Rec. 14-04 - Article 5) here the new TACs set as 16142t for 2015, 19296t for 2016 and 23155t for 2017. Allocation for Libya is 1107.06t, 1323.28t, and 1588.77t on seasons 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, in addition Libya will carry over 50t of its 2011 unused quota in each year up to 2017. Therefore the total allocated quota for Libya in 2015 is 1157.06 t.

Also the capacity plan shows a planned reduction of fishing capacity in 2015 by 146% comparing to 2008 fishing capacity.

Table. 1 Catching Vessel Actually Engaged in bluefin tuna fishing 2015 season.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Individual quota</i>
1	DEELA	AT000LBY00024	PS, 24-40m	82.520
2	OZU II	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	28.925
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	85.235
4	ALMADINA	AT000LBY00027	PS, 24-40m	85.235
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	28.925
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	84.750
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	79.300
8	ALSSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	160.350
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	113.427
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	67.590
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	139.353
12	Tayma	AT000LBY00083	PS, 20-40m	28.925
13	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	85.230
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	85.235
Total				1155

Table 2. Fishing Capacity Management Plan for Libya – 2015.

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
		Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS(24-40)m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	17	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	846	
PS <24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	
Total PS fleet		33	31	30	21	18	17	17	17	1648	1527	1478	1045	896	846	846	646	
Longliner >40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	25	
LL(24-40)m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner <24m		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total LL fleet		5	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	25	
Total fleet capacity		38	35	32	23	20	18	18	18	1898	1627	1527	1095	946	871	871	871	
Quota										1237	947	581	903	903	938	938	1107	
Adjusted quota										1237	1092	726	903*	903	938	938	1157	
Sport/recreation										0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Under/over capacity										536	535	801	192	43	-67	-67	-286	
Reduction													25%	78%	95%	108%	108%	146%

* Libya did not use its quota of 2011.

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Introduction

In accordance with the provisions in force on the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07, the objective of this document is to submit to the Commission for its consideration the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for the 2015 season.

In general terms, these plans are identical to the plans submitted and adopted by the Commission for the 2014 fishing campaign.

1. Quota allocation plan/operational sectors

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last annual meeting held in Genoa in November 2014, the national quota for 2015 which is fixed at 1500.01 t will be distributed among the following operational sectors: a) traps, b) artisanal vessels and costal vessels fishing bluefin tuna as by-catch and c) two offshore purse seiners.

The Administration will establish the relevant quota levels for each of the sectors, in accordance with ICCAT provisions on individual quotas and these will be notified by the strict deadlines set by the Commission.

2. Fishing conditions

The fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual bluefin tuna fishery management plan updated to take account of the new provisions of the East bluefin tuna recovery plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Kingdom of Morocco undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07 during the 2015 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap sector.

3. Fishing capacity

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 11 traps
- 1 purse seine vessel LOA > 40 m and
- 1 purse seine vessels LOA between 24 and 40 m
- 1 longline vessel

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorized by the Moroccan Administration catch bluefin tuna as by-catch during their migration period. These vessels are included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and as in the past, their catches will be counted against the limit of the quota allocated to their segment.

Therefore, the national management/reduction of fishing capacity plan for the 2015 fishing season is as follows:

	<i>Potential catches SCRS</i>	<i>Vessels registered with ICCAT before 2010</i>	<i>Theoretical catches</i>	<i>Authorized vessels for 2015</i>	<i>Theoretical catches 2015</i>
PS large LOA > 40 m	70.7	2	141.4	1	70.7
PS med 24 < LOA < 40	49.8	3	149.9	1	49.8
PS small LOA < 24 *	33.7	1	33.7	0	0
LL large	25	0	25	1	25
LL med	5.7	1	5.7	0	0
LL small	5	63	315	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0
Handliner	5	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	1	10	0	0
Other artisanal	5	tbr*	tbr	tbr	109.19
Traps (Moroccan indicators)	112.3	18	2021.4	11	1235.3
Total		89	2691.6	14	1465
2015 quota					1500.01
Total theoretical catches			2691.6		1490
Theoretical rate of capacity/quota reduction					-0.66%

* to be reported.

4. Fishing periods and areas where fishing is prohibited

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorized by the Commission for the different gear will be applied.

5. Control and compliance

Fishery monitoring, control and observation procedures will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, which form the basis of the 2015 method of operation whose objective is the following:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging operations;
- Reporting scheme and recording of fishing, transfer and caging information;
- VMS monitoring of fishing and support vessels (auxiliary vessels);
- Documentary procedures for trading bluefin tuna;
- Application of international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco in relation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

6. Other information

The bluefin tuna farming facility “Blue Farm” which was authorised in 2014 and included in the ICCAT Record under identity number AT001MAR00002 will be operational following compliance with the reglementary procedures in force.

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.

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.

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.

SYRIA

BFT Fishing Plan for the 2015 Season

Notwithstanding the objection presented by Syria to the Recommendation 14-04 (Ref. No. 3002 dated 13/12/2014) adopted at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission in 2014, regarding our request of allowing Syria to carryover unused quotas of BFT (2012, 2013 and 2015). However, in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the 19th Special meeting of ICCAT, and until the Commission considers Syrian request, we have the honour to present a bluefin tuna fishing plan of the national quota for this season 2015.

1. BFT fishing vessel and operations

- According to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2015, Syria has an annual quota of 39.65 tons of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2015 season. Syria adopted the following plan:
 - The quota of 39.65 tons will be caught by one fishing vessel (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as the vessel is selected).
 - Special fishing license shall be issued by the fishery authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015.
 - The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
 - The authorized period for fishing is from May 26 to June 24, 2015 (if there is no other recommendation adopted by ICCAT).
 - No joint fishing operations will be allowed.
 - Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
 - No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.
 - There is no facility for farming BFT in the Syrian water yet.

2. Control Measures

Landing Transshipments port

- The fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiner shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fleet.
- Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna is prohibited
- BFT fishing vessel shall only land/transship BFT catches in port designated by fishery authorities (Lattakia fishing Port).
- All landing or transshipment shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).

Minimum size and Incidental catch / by-catch

- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg is prohibited.
- An incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.

VMS

- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be provided as required in ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

National Observers Program

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) who will be embarked on board of tuna vessel.
- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and the collection of information and data on all the fishing operations and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.
- Two observers will be at the port to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the onboard observer reports (Syria will submit names of national observers as soon as possible).

Regional Observers Program

- According to the recommendation concerning the regional observer programme for purse seine vessel, Syria is ready to receive regional observer appointed by ICCAT (expenses incurred in connection with regional observer shall be borne by ICCAT).
- It is kindly requested that the observer transmits his personal information and copy of his passport in appropriate time to be able to take the necessary arrangement with the relevant agencies.

Reporting of Catch

- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a weekly catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight).
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the bluefin tuna catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

Imposing of Sanction

- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports
- In case of non-compliance with this plan or any of ICCAT recommendations by the fishing vessel regarding bluefin tuna fishing operations shall lead to penalties (confiscation of fishing gear, confiscation of catches, suspending or withdrawal of license).

TUNISIA

1. Fishing capacity management plan

In preparation for the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia has adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT (paragraph 41, [Rec 14-04]).

On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia has established a fishing plan and has allocated individual quotas to 25 vessels to fish bluefin tuna, including the re-commissioning of 4 purse seiners which had been inactive since 2011 (**Table 1**).

2. Fishing plan

During the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing campaign (26 May - 24 June), the competent Tunisian authority envisages granting bluefin fishing permits for 25 purse seine vessels: 23 vessels with a length greater than 24 m, 1 vessel measuring 24 m and 1 vessel less than 24 m.

The management of fishing activity will be governed by the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008 as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on the organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery).

Tunisia's TAC is fixed at 1247.97 t for 2015 and will be distributed among the 25 bluefin tuna catching vessels taking into account the methodology established by ICCAT (catch level and length ranges).

A list of catching vessels and the corresponding individual quotas are attached to this report (**Table 2**).

Within the context of their joint fishing operations, the purse seine vessels will share their common catches according to the allocation key pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 17 of [Rec. 14-04].

2.1 Data recording and reporting

Prior to entry into any port, the vessel masters or their representatives will report to the relevant port authorities no later than four hours before the estimated time of arrival the following:

- Estimated time of arrival
- Estimated volume of bluefin tuna caught
- Information on the geographic position where the catch was taken

The daily information of the fishing logbooks including zero catch data which will be notified to the competent authority throughout the fishing period via the representatives of the fishing masters.

Nevertheless, real time monitoring of transfer operations of products that are performed and their destinations will be ensured by the U3C Terminal (Control and Communication Unit in conjunction with the Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre (CAGIP)).

2.2 Vessel monitoring by VMS

All bluefin tuna vessels with a length greater than 15 m will be equipped with VMS. Transmittal to ICCAT of VMS data by vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 bluefin fishing season will commence 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the end of the authorisation in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 87 of [Rec. 14-04].

2.3 Implementation of observation programmes

In 2015, the Administration will maintain implementation of the regional observers programmes (onboard catching vessels) and deployment of national observers (onboard towing vessels) in accordance with the provisions of [Rec. 14-04].

3. Inspection plans

3.1 National inspection

In compliance with the national regulation in force, at-sea inspection missions in fishing areas during the campaign will be ensured by permanent fisheries and coast surveillance officers. They are responsible for monitoring and assessing compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Authorisations for entry of foreign flag vessels to designated Tunisian ports are granted by the competent port authorities.

In-port inspections are ensured by certified officers of the fishery services responsible for control of bluefin tuna landings, fishing gears and onboard documents.

3.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspection

In compliance with the provisions of Annex 7 of [Rec. 14-04], the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 is expected to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Three onboard inspectors will ensure the carrying out of the inspection and boarding activities for Tunisian and foreign vessels during the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- onboard documents
- catching activities and transfer activities to towing cages
- the video recordings of catch transfer operations
- possible infringements of management measures in [Rec. 14-04]

Detailed inspection programmes as well as measures to be taken in relation to vessels inspected will be decided jointly with the Fisheries Administration.

4. Farming capacity management plan

In accordance with paragraphs 46 and 47 of [Rec. 14-04], the farming capacity for 2015 will be maintained at 2,134 t, which is the same caging capacity as in 2014 (**Table 3**).

Six (6) companies plan to carry on their activities in 2015. If there is a change in the farming plan, it will be notified to ICCAT by the required deadlines.

Table 1. Adjustment of Tunisia's fishing capacity – 2015.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.70	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	70.70	70.70	70.70	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72
Purse seiners less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
Total purse seine fleet		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	1804.26	1804.26	1804.26	1080.54	1029.28	1029.28	1029.28	1228.4
Longliner over 40 m	25	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
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	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
Trawler	10	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
Other (specify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total capacity of fishing fleet		42	42	42	23	21	21	21	25	1809.26	1809.26	1809.26	1080.54	1029.28	1029.28	1029.28	1228.4
Quota		2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.180	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.180	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97
Undercapacity													76.78%	98.51%	103.68%	103.68%	103.48%

Table 2. List of tuna vessels and individual quotas - Tunisia (2015).

	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT Registration</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	101.368	Socoplat
2	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	101.368	Socoplat
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	57.48	Meridien Pêche
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	35.296	Meridien Pêche
5	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	35.296	Société Ben Hmida et Cnie
6	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	57.48	Société Ben Hmida et fils
7	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	35.296	Société Ben Hmida et fils
8	Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	101.848	Horchani Pêche
9	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	35.296	Horchani Pêche
10	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	35.296	Jomaa Chaari
11	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	35.296	Jomaa Chaari
12	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007	28	35.296	Sté Chaari et Fils
13	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	57.48	SPAC Service
14	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	28	35.296	Tahar Hajji - Cnie
15	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	35.296	Fish Tunisie
16	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	35.296	Fish Tunisie
17	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.10	68.092	Sami Neifer
18	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	68.572	Mohamed Chiha
19	Abou Chamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	46.388	Héritiers Kamel Moncer
20	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	24.684	Nejib Chiha
21	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	35.296	Sté Dauphin de Pêche
22	Essaida jannet	AT000TUN00050	37	79.664	Sté Méditerranée de pêche
23	Med adem	AT000TUN00036	24	24.684	Sté Radhouène de pêche
24	Jamel	AT000TUN00011	26.29	35.296	Héritiers Raouine
25	MABROUK	AT000TUN00015	25.40	35.296	Meridien pêche
Total				1247.956 t	

Table 3. Adjustment of farming capacity - Tunisia (2015).

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Facility Facility Owner</i>	<i>Maximum caging planned in 2015 (in t)</i>
AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi sallem	356
AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	444
AT001TUN00003	SMT Substitute facility	444
AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	267
AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji et Mohamed Chiha	267

TURKEY

Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2015

Introduction

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015 with 57 Coast Guard Boats and 207 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) to the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 143 inspector staff and 27 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL)'s (ARAMA 1) will conduct ICCAT inspections in the region.

Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently. The provisional list of active inspection vessels are given in **Annex 1**.

Details of the planned at-sea inspection plan are given in the following sections.

Planning of Inspection Activities

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focus on for the year 2015. It is estimated that the locations, where fishing and towing vessel Bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centers of TCGC.

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

Inspection Time and Area by Regions

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 Bluefin Tuna (BFT) Fishing Season.

Means of At-Sea Inspections

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2014's risk assessment data.

As for TNFC, the inspections is being planned to be conducted during the whole period of fishing season with the NFC Flagged Frigates and Corvettes. However, in accordance with the planned missions, the inspections may be conducted in the other areas within the international waters by TNFC, as far as possible.

Planned Number of ICCAT Inspection Assets to be deployed

Number of Coastal Patrol Vessels: 57

Number of High Seas Patrol Vessels/Inspection Vessels: 27

Where needed or required, additional vessels and/or inspector staff shall be authorized. Within the bounds of possibility, aerial inspections are also planned to be performed by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by NFC during the whole BFT fishing period for 2015.

Permanently 5 personnel will be working in shifts on 24 hour basis at Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 personnel will be working in shifts at each operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

TNFC Operations Center shall maintain its communication with the inspector vessels during 24 hours. With a view of activities' coordination in Operations Center, 3 officers and 4 Petty Officers will be employed fulltime.

ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA

(Submitted by Turkey)

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04]. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, has been prepared and submitted in pursuant of paragraph 3 of *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT* [Res. 12-11].

1. Fishing Plan

Through the Note Verbale dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an “AUTONOMOUS QUOTA” of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19th Special Meeting.

In this context, Turkey will implement a total of 1.222.96 m.t. catch limit for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2015.

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 Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

1.1 Potential Fishing Grounds

The potential fishing ground for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

1.2 List of Authorized E-BFT Fishing Vessels

MoFAL shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2015. All fishing vessels authorized by MoFAL shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

1.3 Licensing

Fishing permits issued by MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2015 fishing season. Fishing permits shall be granted to 16 purse seine vessels by MoFAL.

A total of 55 BFT other vessels including towing, support and auxiliary vessels shall be authorized by MoFAL.

1.4 Allocation of E-BFT Catch Quota

In accordance with the formal objection lodged and the declaration made by Turkey on 12 February 2015, Turkey shall implement the catch limit for 2015 as 1.222.96 m.t. In this regard, a viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 16 E-BFT catching vessels acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2015 E-BFT fishing season.

1.5 Methodology used for Quota Allocation

MoFAL plans to allocate 90% of the total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2015 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

1.6 Coastal, Recreational, Sport Fisheries

A specific quota level shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal, recreational and sport fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches, which is of 10% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.

1.7 Regulations for 2015 E-BFT Fishing Season

1.7.1 Fishing Period and Open Season

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2015 to 24 June 2015.

1.7.2 Joint Fishing Operations

No joint fishing operation (JFOs) with any other CPC is allowed unless the concerned CPC has less than 5 authorized (maximum 4) purse seiners.

A JFO for E-BFT shall only be authorized with the consent of MoFAL and of the other CPC authority concerned, if the vessels to be involved are equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has sufficient individual quotas.

Fishing vessels to conduct any JFO with the vessels of any other CPC shall present the required certificates and letter of consent to MoFAL at least 15 days before the start of the operation (departure from port) to be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within the specified deadline.

1.7.3 E-BFT Landing/Transshipment Ports

E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes.

In case of dead bluefin tunas derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.

The following ports have been designated by MoFAL for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:

	<i>Province</i>	<i>Designated Landing/ Transshipment Port</i>
1	ADANA	Karataş fishing port
2	ANTALYA	Antalya fishing port Gazipaşa fishing port
3	MERSIN	Karaduvar fishing port
4	HATAY	Iskenderun fishing port
5	ÇANAKKALE	Kabatepe fishing port Gülpınar fishing port
6	ISTANBUL	Kumkapı fishing port Tuzla fishing port
7	IZMIR	Karaburun fishing port

1.7.4 Vessel Monitoring System requirements

Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2015 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL. Position reporting every two hours will be required from the authorized fishing vessels.

1.7.5 Recording and Reporting

Recording and reporting shall be made in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.6 Transfer, Towing and Caging Operations

Transfer, Towing and Caging Operations shall be conducted in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.7 Cross check

As a part of measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch, the relevant information recorded in fishing logbooks / daily logs, transfer declaration, and in the catch documents shall be verified by MoFAL by using available inspection reports, observer reports and VMS data as well as through a National Fisheries Information System called SUBIS.

MoFAL shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

1.7.8 Enforcement

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the fishing permit or the towing permit issued by MoFAL. Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned permits for future operations.

1.7.9 Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of E-BFT products (with the exception of fish parts other than the meat i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) as well as their keeping onboard, at storage or inside the towing cages attached to a catching/towing vessel which are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation shall be prohibited.

1.7.10 Observer requirements

Presence of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations); and presence of “CPC Observers” on E-BFT Towing Vessels and onboard of Auxiliary Vessels carrying dead E-BFT to designated ports shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2015.

1.7.11 Use of aerial means

Any use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

1.7.12 Minimum size

Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale E-BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms shall be prohibited.

1.7.13 Sampling Requirements

E-BFT samplings shall be made in parallel with the procedures set by ICCAT management and conservation measures. In 2015, 100% of caging operations shall be covered by a programme using stereoscopic cameras systems in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out by ICCAT. The results obtained will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat, as required by the SCRS. On the other hand, sampling of dead E-BFT derived from fishing shall be treated in accordance with the Turkish National Sampling Program.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned in this plan and in domestic legislation.

2. Inspection Plan

2.1 National Inspection

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (CGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoFAL during 2015 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely ARAMA 1- will be commissioned by MoFAL to carry out inspections at sea.

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

As for E-BFT caging operations, MoFAL 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.

2.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspections

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015 with 57 Coast Guard Boats and 207 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) to the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 143 inspector staff and 27 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely ARAMA 1- that has been assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

The provisional list of inspection vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat on 13 February 2015.

2.3 Framework of MCS

2.3.1 E-BFT Fishery, Transfer, Farming and Trading of Turkish Allocated Quota

Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- E-BFT catching/other vessels to be registered in ICCAT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- E-BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) rules,
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Log Book requirements,
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification.



Transfer

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification,
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer Coverage (for all catching vessels),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessels),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



Towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



Import (for live E-BFT)

- 100 % MoFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ROP-BFT Coverage (at farm site/caging)



Caging

- 100% Video Footage,
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% ICCAT Observer Coverage (Farming),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Caging Declaration.



Farming

- Random MOFAL Inspections
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% Video Footage.



Transport

- 100% National (CPC) Observer Coverage
- 100% dead fish
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and Transport Declaration requirements



Landing Ports

- Random MOFAL Inspections at 7 authorized landing fishing ports for dead E-BFT.
- Random MOFAL Inspections at landing fishing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT



Harvest

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- 100% MoFAL Representative Coverage,
- BCD Scheme requirements



Export

- 100 % MoFAL Representative Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements



Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

3. Fishing Capacity Plan

<i>Model Capacity form</i>																	
<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	70,70	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	2898,70	2262,40	848,40	919,10	0,00	212,10	0,00	1131,20
Purse seiner between 24m and 40m	49,78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	2439,22	1692,52	547,58	199,12	547,58	348,46	647,14	0,00
Purse seiner less than 24m	33,68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101,04	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total Purse Seine Fleet																	
longliner over 40m	25																
longliner between 24m and 40m	5,68																
longliner less than 24m	5																
Total Longline Fleet																	
Baitboat	19,8																
Handline	5																
Trawler	10																
Trap	130																
Other (please specify)	5																
Total fleet / fishing capacity										5438,96	3954,92	1395,98	1118,22	547,58	560,56	647,14	1131,20
Quota										887,19	683,11	419,18	535,89	535,89	556,66	556,66	1223,00
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																	
Allowance for sport / recreational (if applicable)										17,74	13,66	8,38	10,72	10,72	11,13	11,13	24,50
Under / overcapacity										4551,77	3271,81	976,80	582,33	11,69	3,90	90,48	-91,80

CHINESE TAIPEI

In accordance with ICCAT Rec.14-04, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we are continue to implement the temporary regulation established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2015. The aforementioned Atlantic Ocean means the ICCAT Convention area, including the Mediterranean Sea.

As for the by-catch of Bluefin tuna, it shall be released or discarded, recorded on the logbook or elogbook, and reported to this Agency in accordance with pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations. Up to date, there is no by-catch of bluefin tuna reported to this Agency.

We are sure that if we get any by-catch report of bluefin tuna in the future, we will report to ICCAT through formal channels and deducted from the Chinese Taipei quota.

Furthermore, with reference to the paragraph 5bis of the ICCAT Rec.14-04, I would like to confirm that Chinese Taipei transfers 10 tons of Atlantic bluefin tuna within its quota to Egypt in 2015.

ADJUSTED QUOTAS FOR 2015 [PA2-007]

Adjusted quotas for EBFT East

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2015 (t)</i>	<i>Additional allocation 2015</i>	<i>Reduction to allocation 2015</i>	<i>Adjusted quota 2015</i>
Albania	39.65			39.65
Algeria	169.81	200		369.81
China	45.09			45.09
Egypt	79.2	76		155.2
European Union	9372.92			9372.92
Iceland	36.57			36.57
Japan	1345.44	45		1390.44
Korea	95.08		95	0.08
Libya	1107.06	50		1157.06
Morocco	1500.01			1500.01
Norway	36.57			36.57
Syria	39.65			39.65
Tunisia	1247.97			1247.97
Turkey*	657.23	50		707.23
Chinese Taipei	48.76		10	38.76
Mauritania (research)	5			5

* Turkey has lodged an objection to Rec. 14-04 and has set its own catch limit for 2015 as 1222.96 t.

**LIST OF POTENTIAL NON-COMPLIANCE [PNC] EVENTS
TO BE REPORTED BY ROP-BFT OBSERVERS [PA2-003]**

<i>Deployment/ Operation</i>	<i>PNC Event</i>
Fishing	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Fishing)
Fishing	Aerial support used during searching operations
Fishing	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Fishing)
Fishing	Fishing outside designated season
Fishing	Transfer declaration (ITD) not completed
Fishing	Landing in port - (Fishing)
Fishing	Dead tuna not adequately recorded in the vessel logbook
Fishing	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Fishing)
Fishing	Observer catch estimate >10% than vessel's
Fishing	Tuna transferred to a vessel(s) without an ICCAT number
Fishing	Transfer conducted before receiving Authorisation
Fishing	Pre-transfer notification not sent
Fishing	Transshipment in port - (Fishing)
Fishing	Transshipment at-sea
Fishing	Fish below minimum size transferred
Fishing	Vessel without an ICCAT number involved in fishing operations
Transfer	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show date continuously - (Transfer)
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show time continuously - (Transfer)
Transfer	Video record did not show 100% of transfer
Transfer	Transfer not monitored by video
Transfer	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning or end of each video
Transfer	Independent observer estimate of transfer amount was not possible due to video quality
Transfer	Video record of transfer not transmitted to the observer on the fishing vessel
Transfer	Video record of transfer not provided to the observer immediately after transfer
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show closing of door
Release (PS)	Less than the correct amount of tuna released
Release (PS)	Video record did not show 100% of the release - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Release not monitored by video
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show opening of door
Release (PS)	Tuna not released following a release order
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show date continuously - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show time continuously - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Video of released tuna not provided to the observer immediately after release
Caging	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Caging)

Caging	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Caging)
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to more than one farm cage
Caging	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer - (Caging)
Caging	Independent observer estimate of amount caged was not possible due to video quality
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show date continuously - (Caging)
Caging	BFT caged by a vessel(s) without an ICCAT authorisation number
Caging	Tuna caged before Authorisation
Caging	Tuna not released following a release order
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show time continuously - (Caging)
Caging	Video record did not provide 100% coverage of the transfer
Caging	Video record of transfer not provided to the observer immediately after transfer
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to fish from more than one JFO
Caging	Caging after 15th August
Caging	Landing in port - (Caging)
Caging	Dead tuna not adequately recorded by the farm
Caging	Farm cage without identifiable and different reference number
Caging	Caging Declaration (ICD) not completed
Caging	Transfer declaration (ITD) not completed
Caging	Video record of transfer not transmitted to the observer on the farm
Caging	Video record of transfer not taken
Caging	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Caging)
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to caging operation > 1 day
Caging	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer - (Caging)
Caging	Observer estimate more than $\pm 10\%$ different than farm's
Caging	Dead tuna during the towing operation not recorded in the ITD
Caging	Fish not separated by JFO
Caging	Fish not separated by flag of the catching vessel
Caging	Fish not separated by year [of catching]
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to fish from more than one vessel outside JFO
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning or end of each video
Caging	Transshipment in unauthorised port - (Caging)
Caging	Fish below minimum size caged
Caging	Less than the correct amount of tuna released
Release (Farms)	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer - (Release Farms)
Release (Farms)	Video record did not show 100% of the release - (Release (Farms))
Release (Farms)	Release not monitored by video
Release (Farms)	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer - (Release(Farm))
Release (Farms)	Video of released tuna not provided to the observer immediately after release
Release (Farms)	Video record of release did not show date continuously - (Release(Farms))

Release (Farms)	Video record of release did not show time continuously - (Release(Farms))
Harvest	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Harvest)
Harvest	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Harvest)
Harvest	Landing in unauthorised port - (Harvest)
Harvest	Observer estimate for harvested tuna 10% greater than farm's
Harvest	Observer prevented from taking size measurements or biological samples
Harvest	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Harvest)
Harvest	Transshipment in unauthorised port - (harvest)
Harvest	Undersize fish harvested
Harvest	Vessel without an ICCAT number involved in operations

MRAG: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON REC. 14-04 [PA2-004]

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
2 i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of a control transfer, how will this be recorded in the ITD? We would like to confirm that multiple control transfers are allowed? And similarly, the procedure for recording multiple transfers on the ITD We would also like to confirm who authorises the control transfer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record as “Further Transfer” Yes The flag state of the catching vessels
2 n)	Is the situation where a dead fish is transferred using a towing vessel annex (rigid inflatable boat) to bring the fish to another auxiliary vessel not to be considered a transshipment?	Correct; not a transshipment
28	To confirm, that for each fishing operation a quantity of 5% in number of undersized fish is authorised.	No, this does not apply across the board; and is not applicable to certain specific minimum size regulations as specified in para 27 and Annex 1.
76 (last sentence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a new transfer occurs, is it designated as a control transfer or simply a new transfer? If a control transfer, again we would appreciate guidance on the procedure for recording this on the ITD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New transfer, but little difference as the information from last transfer to be used In “Further Transfer”
83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is our interpretation correct that it is now an obligation for operators to only use stereoscopic camera systems at caging? Will the observer still be allowed to provide estimations from a regular video only? We would appreciate clarification on the process described for the communication of the results of the stereoscopic programme from the CPCs to the observer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No; can use standard cameras to determine numbers. Yes as in some cases the observer won’t have access to the results of the stereoscopic cameras in time. This difficulty has been noted, CPCs should send results to the Secretariat and the Secretariat will relay to the consortium.
90	We note that the ICD is not listed here, does this mean it will no longer be used and hence the observer will not be required to sign it.	Correct since there is a delay getting results from the cameras.
Annex 9	Will observers be required to review stereoscopic footage? If so, this would necessitate training of the observers in the use of the system.	Control authorities need to be trained, not regional observers.

INTERVENTION MADE BY TURKEY

Presentation of Alternative Conservation and Management Plan

During the last Annual meeting in Genoa, it was observed with deep regret that long standing and rightful demand of Turkey, based on valid grounds, intended for an increase at Turkey's quota share was not fulfilled.

Under these circumstances, Turkey was left with no alternative but to object to ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and to declare an autonomous quota at the catch levels on the basis of ICCAT Recommendations 94-11, 98-5 and 00-09.

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15 dated 13 February 2015, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Recommendation 14-04. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, has been prepared and submitted in pursuant of paragraph 3 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT* [Res.12-11].

In this regard, Turkey does not seek any endorsement to the alternative conservation and management plan.

Through the *Note Verbale*, dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an "Autonomous quota" of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19th Special Meeting.

In this context, with extra-strengthened MCS measures, Turkey plans to implement all the technical measures and components of the objected ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 voluntarily.

Once again, we would also like to stress that in this context Turkey would comply with the original rule established by ICCAT intended for the first time catch quota allocations in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries. Thereby, Turkey would not be violating the applicable conservation and management plan established by ICCAT.

With that, Turkey is still committed to continue fulfilling her obligations as it was before.

Relying on the necessity of ensuring sustainability of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks, Turkey will continue to effectively implement bluefin tuna conservation and management measures on a voluntary basis.

Interventions made by Turkey on the CPC comments on Paragraph 94 of ICCAT Rec. 14-04

Turkey stressed that it found the approach a nonsense and that it was unacceptable to already prejudge that bluefin tuna products would be in the scope of paragraph 94 of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 in the absence of a thorough examination and appraisal of the issue by the related legal experts in terms of its technical and legal aspects. Emphasizing that having used its legal rights arising from Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention and having presented an alternative management and conservation plan timely and properly in line with other applicable ICCAT measures, Turkey objected to the comments made by some CPCs that Turkey would be deemed as not having a sufficient quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures for the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna in consequence of lodging formal objection to Recommendation 14-04. Turkey also indicated that considering the rights and obligations under international law the inter-sessional Panel 2 body, having no mandate to prejudge or to make a judgement on such issues, should avoid itself from making an inference on the legal status and destiny of Turkish bluefin tuna products in the consequence of lodging a formal objection to Recommendation 14-04 with declaration of an autonomous quota.

Interventions made by Turkey on CPC views/requests for endorsement of Turkey’s Alternative Conservation and Management Plan

Turkey reacted to the comments made by some CPCs stressing that its formal objection to Recommendation 14-04 submitted timely through diplomatic channels and that the alternative conservation and management plan presented in accordance with ICCAT Resolution 12-11 in relation to “Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT” may not be subject to endorsement by Panel 2. As for the comments made by the European Union in relation to that paragraph 11 of ICCAT Rec.13-07 regarding submission and endorsement of fishing plans will still be applicable for Turkey’s case. Turkey responded that there were no explicit provisions in the ICCAT Convention that regulates this issue as interpreted by the EU and indicated that a thorough examination of the legal aspects of the issue should be made with legal experts. Emphasizing that Panel 2 has no mandate to endorse Turkey’s alternative conservation and management plan, Turkey objected protested this attempt trying to take Turkey’s plan under a new evaluation process after conclusion of Agenda item 4, in the very last minute.

Interventions made by Turkey on CPC views/questions on possibility/legality to conduct JFOs with Turkey in consequence of Turkey’s objection to ICCAT

Turkey stressed that the process of individual quota allocation to fishing vessels is still on-going domestically. Turkey continued that within the deadline specified in the objected ICCAT Recommendation, details of the authorized fishing vessels with individual quotas allocated to them will be communicated to ICCAT Secretariat to be posted on ICCAT Web site. Having declared to voluntarily implement all the technical measures and components of the objected ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Turkey expressed its consideration that no legal impediments exist to conduct JFOs with other CPCs willing to make JFO with Turkey.

Interventions made by Turkey on CPC remarks on effects of Turkey’s decision on ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

Turkey stressed that the decision of objecting ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and declaration of an autonomous quota is not an arbitrary one but based on valid justifications to properly implement the original rule established by ICCAT intended for the first time catch quota allocations in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries as stipulated by ICCAT Recommendations 94-11, 98-5 and 00-09. Turkey continued that not only CPCs do have some particular obligations against ICCAT but also ICCAT has some obligations against the Contracting Parties in order not to treat them unjustly or discriminate them unreasonably, particularly in the process of allocation of fishing resources of economic importance.