



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 January 2014  
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**PECHE 5**

**COVER NOTE**

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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 8 January 2014

To: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European  
Union

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Subject: Recommendations and Resolution adopted during the 23rd Regular Meeting  
of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas  
(ICCAT)

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Delegations will find attached document the above mentioned document.

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Encl.: ICCAT Circular n° 6921 / 2013

Madrid – December 10, 2013

**ICCAT Circular # 6921 / 2013**

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 23<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

I have the honor to transmit to you the texts of the 18 Recommendations and 1 Resolution adopted during the 23<sup>RD</sup> Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), held in Cape Town (South Africa), November 18 to 25, 2013.

13-01	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas</i>
13-02	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish</i>
13-03	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits</i>
13-04	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT</i>
13-05	<i>Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program</i>
13-06	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the period 2014 to 2016</i>
13-07	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 12-03 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean</i>
13-08-3	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Complementing Recommendation 12-03 which Established a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna</i>
13-09	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program</i>
13-10	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on Biological Sampling of Prohibited Shark Species by Scientific Observers</i>
13-11	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-09 on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries</i>
13-12	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)</i>
13-13	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area</i>
13-14	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering</i>
13-15	<i>Resolution by ICCAT to Complete the Standardization of the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report</i>
13-16 13	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program</i>
13-17	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System</i>

13-18	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers</i>
13-19	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Scientific Capacity Building Fund for Developing States which are ICCAT Contracting Parties</i>

In accordance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention and providing no objections are lodged, the Recommendations will enter into force on, **June 10, 2014.**

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Driss Meski  
*Executive Secretary*

Commission Officers:

Commission Chairman	S. Depypere	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Chair:	R. Delgado	PWG Chair	T. El Ktiri
Second Vice Chair:	A. Krainiy	STACFAD Chair	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	J. Santiago	SWGSM Chair	M. Tsamenyi

- Head Delegates
- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachments: 18 Recommendations and 1 Resolution.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION  
ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS**

*CONSIDERING* that the multi-annual program for the medium-term is intended to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries;

*RECALLING* recommendations released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

*REMINDING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS also stated the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, has brought about an increase in skipjack tuna catchability and may also have an impact of the biology of skipjack tuna;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that requirements on the recording of the catch and fishing activities in FADs fisheries set out in Recommendation 11-01 do not allow the SCRS to assess properly technical conservation measures, particularly those based on possible spatial and temporal closures;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

*NOTING* a lack of knowledge of the FAD fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea region and that the SCRS has highlighted the chronic data deficiencies in that region;

*FURTHER NOTING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS stated that the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch was also acknowledged. The SCRS also recognized the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported.

*RECALLING* the development of provisions related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1) Paragraph 18 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

18. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data :

a) Deployment of any FAD

- i. Position
- ii. Date
- iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- iv. FAD identifier (*i. e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)
- v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

- b) Visit on any FAD
  - i. Type of the visit (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
  - ii. Position
  - iii. Date
  - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - v. FAD identifier (*i. e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
  - vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive.
- c) Loss of any FAD
  - i. Last registered position
  - ii. Date of the last registered position
  - iii. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to under paragraphs 18(a), 18(b) and 18(c) and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs may use possible templates laid down in Annexes I and II as reporting formats. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats.

2) Paragraph 19 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

19. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 17 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 18, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
- b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS.
- c) The following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
  - i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with,
  - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon associated to the FAD,
  - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.

19. bis To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 19a) above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.

- 3) When implementing provisions laid down in Recommendation [11-01], CPCs should promote FADs whose design can reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species.
- 4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, developing CPCs may defer the implementation of the above paragraphs 1) and 2) to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 provided that they collaborate with the Executive Secretary.

<b>FAD Identifier</b>	<b>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</b>		<b>FAD Design characteristics</b>				<b>Observation</b>	
	<b>Associated beacon ID</b>	<b>FAD Type</b>	<b>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</b>	<b>FAD floating part</b>	<b>FAD underwater hanging structure</b>	<b>Materials</b>		
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) e.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) e.g., width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.
- (5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (6) e.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

FAD marking	Beacon ID	FAD type	Type of visit	Date	Time	Position		Estimated catches			By-catch				Observations
						Latitude	Longitude	SKJ	YFT	BET	Taxonomic group	Estimated catches	Unit	Specimen released alive	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1, 2) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) *i. e.*, deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy

(6) hh:mm

(7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen

(13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*RECALLING* the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02], the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 10-02] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02];

*CONSIDERING* that following the 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS indicates that the stock is currently not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring;

*NOTING* that Recommendation [11-02] requests the Commission to establish at its 2013 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Rec. 01-25].

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the concern of the SCRS that the allowable country-specific catch levels agreed in [Rec. 11-02] exceed the TAC adopted by the Commission and the scientific recommendation;

*DETERMINED* to ensure that the total catch for any one year during the management period does not exceed the TAC of 13,700 t;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining  $B_{MSY}$ , with greater than 50% probability.
2. TAC and catch limits
  - a) A total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,700 t for North Atlantic swordfish for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
  - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the three-year period.

	<i>Catch limit** (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	75
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Philippines	25



Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

\* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02].

\*\* The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

- From Japan to Morocco: 50 t
- From Japan to Canada: 35 t
- From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) : 40 t
- From Senegal to Canada: 125 t
- From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t
- From Philippines to China: 25t
- From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t
- From Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States to Mauritania: 25 t. each for a total of 100 t per year

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

\*\*\* Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit

c) The total TACs for 2014-2016 shall not be exceeded. For this purpose, if the total annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,700 t, CPCs who have exceeded their individual adjusted catch limits shall pay back their overharvest. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limits of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table in 2.b) above.

3. The Commission shall establish at its 2016 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs in 2014, 2015 and 2016 so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures in 2016, as appropriate. Each CPC shall submit its development or fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15 of each year.
4. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2016, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of  $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$  or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.
5. The SCRS and the Commission shall begin a dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec 99-02] then management measures should be considered to avoid further decline and begin to rebuild the stock.
6. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 50% for other CPCs. By derogation, the maximum underage in 2013 that a Party may carryover until 2015 shall not exceed 25% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t.

7. If Japan's landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the three-year period commencing in 2014. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same three-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2011-2013 management period shall be applied to the three-year management period specified herein.
8. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
9. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
10. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 10, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.
11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual catch limits established above, the CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each CPC.
12. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per section 2 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limits transfer may not retransfer that catch limits.
13. This *Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON  
SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS**

*CONSIDERING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

*CONSCIOUS* that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing TAC;

*RECOGNIZING* that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25], adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. For 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

(Unit: t)

TAC <sup>(1)</sup>	15,000
Brazil <sup>(2)</sup>	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	263
Chinese Taipei <sup>(3)</sup>	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan <sup>(3)</sup>	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tome & Principe	100
Senegal	417
Philippines	50
Korea	50
Belize	125

(1) The total catch for the three-year management period of 2014-2016 shall not exceed 45,000 t (15,000 t x 3). If the yearly total catch of any of the three years exceeds 15,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the three-year total will not exceed 45,000 t. If the total catch in 2016 exceeds 15,000 t and if the three-year total catch exceeds 45,000 t, the exceeded amount for three years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorate reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).

(2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.

(3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2013 may be carried over to 2015 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2014-2016 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of previous year. By derogation, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in 2015 shall not exceed 50% of the quota in 2013.

3. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
4. The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
5. The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t) shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.
6. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
7. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2012, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible, and not later than one month before the SCRS meeting. From 2013 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission.
8. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* [Rec. 12-01] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR MEDITERRANEAN  
SWORDFISH IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ICCAT**

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2007, as reaffirmed in its 2009 advice, estimated that fish less than three years old usually represent 50-70% of the total yearly catches in terms of numbers and 20-35% in terms of weight and indicates that a reduction in the volume of juvenile catches would improve yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit levels,

*RECOGNISING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicated in its 2010 stock assessment that the Commission should adopt a Mediterranean swordfish fishery management plan which ensures that the stock will be rebuilt and kept in levels that are consistent with the ICCAT Convention objective,

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2010 indicated that overall results suggest that fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock toward the Convention objective of biomass levels which could support MSY and away from levels which could allow a rapid stock decline,

*NOTING* that the SCRS in its assessment in 2010 indicated that technical modifications of the longline fishing gears, as well as, the way they are operated can be considered as an additional technical measure in order to reduce the catch of juveniles,

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04], which encourages Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) to take measures to reduce juvenile Mediterranean swordfish catches,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the SCRS advice given in 2008, 2009 and 2010, advocating seasonal closures pending the adoption of a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the SCRS advise that swordfish and in particular juvenile swordfish is also caught as a by-catch in other fisheries and that all catches of swordfish should stop during the closed period,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the advices given in 2010 for the swordfish have been considered as still valid in 2011,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 09-04] needs to be replaced to set the basis for such a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

*NOTING* that the SCRS management recommendation to amend ICCAT Recommendation 11-03 to correct the weight conversion factors relating to the definition of minimum landing sizes in terms of weights, and this in order to be consistent with the conversion factors previously adopted by ICCAT,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**ICCAT records of vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish**

1. At the latest on the 31 August 2012, and on the 15 January for the following years, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all fishing vessels authorized to catch swordfish for the current year in the Mediterranean Sea. These lists shall distinguish:
  - a) All catching vessels authorized to fish actively for swordfish, meaning any vessel that targets swordfish (defined on the basis of the more abundant species anytime on board) during a given fishing season. Vessels not introduced on this list are not authorized to catch, retain on board, tranship, transport, process or land swordfish exceeding more than 5% of the total catch on board by weight or/and number of pieces.

- b) All vessels authorized for swordfish sport and recreational fisheries as defined in the paragraph 2 m) and n) of ICCAT Recommendation 10-04.

CPCs shall provide these lists according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

2. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

### **Special fishing authorization**

3. Vessels included in the list of authorized vessels under point 1.a and which use harpoons, or participate in pelagic longline fisheries for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean shall have a special fishing permit for each authorised fishery, by target species and area.
4. By 30 June each year CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of the special fishing permits delivered for the previous year.

### **Closed fishing season**

5. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be caught (either as a targeted fishery or as by-catch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March. CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2012, the starting date of this additional month of closure.
6. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of these closures and shall submit to the Commission, at the latest two months before the annual meeting of the Commission, all relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with the measure.

### **Minimum size**

7. Only entire specimens of swordfish, without removal of any external part, or gilled and gutted specimens, can be retained on board, transhipped, landed and transported.
8. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catching, retaining on board, transshipping, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale Mediterranean swordfish measuring less than 90 cm LJFL or, in alternative, weighing less than 10 kg of round weight or 9 kg of gilled and gutted weight, or 7.5 kg of dressed weight (gilled, gutted, fins off, part of head off).

However, the CPCs may grant tolerances to vessels which have incidentally captured small fish below the minimum size, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed:

- a) 10% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of said vessels (in 2012),
- b) 5% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of said vessels as from 2013.

### **Technical characteristics of the fishing gear**

9. The maximum number of hooks that can be set or taken on board of vessels targeting swordfish should be fixed at 2800 hooks for swordfish fishery. A second set of rigged hooks may be allowed on board for trips longer than 2 days provided that are duly lashed and stowed in lower decks so that it may not readily be used.
10. Hook size should never be smaller than 7 cm of height for fishing targeting swordfish.
11. The length of the pelagic longlines will be of maximum 30 NM (55 km).

## **Other measures**

12. Recognition will be given to CPCs which take more restrictive measures than those foreseen in paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

## **Scientific information and advice**

13. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean.
14. By 30 June each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:
- a) Specific information on the fishing vessel:
- Name of the vessel (if no name, the registry number without country initials should be indicated);
  - Registry number;
  - ICCAT list number;

CPCs shall communicate this list electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

- b) Specific information related to fishing activities, based on sampling or for the whole fleet:
- Fishing period(s) and total annual number of fishing days of the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, for the fishing activities carried out by the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Type of vessel, by target species and area;
  - Number of hooks used by the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Number of longline units used by the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Overall length of all longline units for the vessel, by target species and area.
- c) Specific data on the catches, in the smallest time-area possible:
- Size and, if possible, age distributions of the catches,
  - Catches and catch composition per vessel and,
  - Fishing effort (average fishing days per vessel, average number of hooks per vessel, average longline units per vessel, average overall length of longline per vessel).

These data shall be provided to SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.

15. The SCRS shall provide in 2013 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of updated data. It shall assess the effects of this management framework and provide advice on possible amendments of the various measures with a view to recover or to maintain the stock within safe biological limits while delivering economically viable fishing activity.
16. Based on such scientific advice, the ICCAT may decide, by end of 2013 on advisable changes of the management framework for swordfish with a view to complying with the management objective.

## **Repeals**

17. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT* [Rec. 11-03].

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING  
THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE REBUILDING PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore [Rec. 98-08], the Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2008-2009 [Rec. 07-02], the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program on North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 09-05], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program on North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 11-04];

*NOTING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY);

*CONSIDERING* that the 2013 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the northern albacore stock is overfished but that overfishing is not occurring, and recommended a level of catch of no more than 28,000 t to meet the Convention management objective by 2020;

*RECALLING* the importance that all fleets participating in the northern albacore fishery submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,000 t is established for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
2. This annual TAC shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) according to the following:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
European Union	21,551.3 <sub>1</sub>
Chinese Taipei	3,271.7 <sub>2,3</sub>
United States	527
Venezuela	250

3. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 shall limit their catches to 200 t.
4. By derogation to paragraphs 2 and 3, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC's annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Year of Catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2012	2014
2013	2015
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carry-over in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

<sup>1</sup>The European Union will transfer 20 t from its quota to Venezuela in 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Chinese Taipei will transfer 100 t from its quota to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

<sup>3</sup>Chinese Taipei will transfer 200 t from its quota to Belize in 2014, 2015 and 2016.



If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC of 28,000 t, the Commission will re-evaluate the northern albacore recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.

6. The 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08] remains in force.
7. The SCRS shall conduct an assessment of this stock in 2016 and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures to achieve and maintain the Convention objectives. In support of this work, CPCs should promote a scientific program to collect data/information on changes to distribution and/or migratory routes and factors that influences these changes.

As a matter of priority, the SCRS shall continue the development of a Limit Reference Point (LRP) and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for this stock with input from the Commission. Future decisions on the management of this stock should be in accordance with the LRP and HCRs.

8. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 11-04].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN  
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2014 TO 2016**

*NOTING* the conclusions of the 2013 Albacore Assessment Meeting, and of the 2013 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is likely to be overfished and is experiencing overfishing with the current best estimate of B2012/ BMSY being 0.91(0.71-1.26) and the current best estimate of F2011/ FMSY being 1.04(0.38-1.32);

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that total annual declared catches since 2004 have been considerably lower than MSY; but that the status of the stock has remained unchanged and is currently overfished and undergoing overfishing;

*RECOGNISING* the need to rebuild the southern albacore stock to MSY levels, this being the management objective of ICCAT;

*CONSIDERING* that catches of 24,000 t is likely to permit the rebuilding of the stock by 2020;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N shall be 24,000 t for the period 2014 to 2016, this being the TAC that will permit the rebuilding of the stock with at least 50% probability by 2020.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2013, as reported to the 2014 ICCAT meeting, exceed 24,000 t, the TAC for 2015 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2013 catch in excess of 24,000 t.
3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows:

<i>Catch limits (t)</i>	
Angola	50
Belize	250
Brazil	2 160
China	100
Chinese Taipei	9 400
Cote d'Ivoire	100
Curacao	50
European Union	1 470
Japan	1 355
Korea	140
Namibia	3 600
Philippines	140
South Africa	4 400
St Vincent and Grenadines	100
UK St Helena	100
Uruguay	440
Vanuatu	100

All other CPCs not listed above shall limit their catches to 25 t

4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:

- a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2013	2015
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

- b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.
- c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.
- d) In respect of the 2013 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available under catch of total TAC.
- e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3.
- f) In respect of South Africa and Namibia, should either CPC reach its original quota in any given year and the other CPC has underage available, then that CPC shall automatically transfer up to 250 t to the other. In addition, if Namibia reaches its original quota in any given year then Brazil and Uruguay, as a proportion of their respective original quotas, shall automatically transfer a maximum of 150 t of their underage to Namibia.
5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.
6. All CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the south Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the Secretariat in accordance with [Rec. 12-07]. The Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.
8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2016. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2016 assessment.
9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2016 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2016. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2014 to 2016 TAC.
10. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2011 Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore Catch Limit for 2012 and 2013 [Rec. 11-05].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 12-03 BY ICCAT TO  
ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN  
TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

**P a r t I  
General provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$ , with at least 60% probability.

**Definitions**

2. For purposes of this Plan:
  - a) "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
  - b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;
  - c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;
  - d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a cage or a tuna trap to a designated port and / or to a processing vessel.
  - e) "Towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages. "Support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 2a).
  - f) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season;
  - g) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more catching vessels where the catch of one catching vessel is attributed to one or more other catching vessels in accordance with the allocation key;
  - h) "Transfer operations" means:
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
    - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
  - i) "Trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting.
  - j) "Caging" means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
  - k) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.

- l) "Farm" means installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners.
- m) "Harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- n) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel.
- o) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- p) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.

**Length of vessels**

- 3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

**P a r t I I**  
**Management measures**

**TAC and quotas**

- 4. The total allowable catches (TACs) shall be set at 13.400 t annually, effective beginning in 2014 and thereafter, until such time the TAC is changed following the SCRS advice.
- 5. In 2014 the SCRS will conduct an update of the stock assessment and provide advice to the Commission.
- 6. Furthermore, the SCRS shall work towards the development of new assessment modeling approaches and inputs, in a view to minimize uncertainties, which shall be used in a stock assessment in 2015 and thereafter every three years.
- 7. The Plan shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon SCRS advice.
- 8. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in the following year. CPCs shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.
- 9. The allocation scheme from 2014 is set in the table below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>%</i>
Albania	33.58	0.2506266
Algeria	143.83	1.0733333
China	38.19	0.2850125
Egypt	67.08	0.5006266
European Union	7938.65	59.243509
(Croatia)	(390.59)	(2.9148371)
Iceland	30.97	0.2311278
Japan	1139.55	8.5041103
Korea	80.53	0.6010025
Libya	937.65	6.9973935
Morocco	1270.47	9.4811529
Norway	30.97	0.2311278
Syria	33.58	0.2506266
Tunisia	1057.00	7.8880702
Turkey	556.66	4.1541604
Chinese Taipei	41.29	0.3081704
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>100</b>

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 above, and taking into account the historical allocation for this stock, Algeria is granted an extra and temporary allocation of 100t for 2014 prior to any future revisions. The re-establishment of the historical allocation of Algeria will be considered as a priority in future revisions of the TAC. All relevant provisions of this Recommendation apply to such allocation.

The quota transfer of 1 0t from Chinese Taipei to Egypt in 2014 shall be authorized.

The request of Libya to carryover unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2014.

11. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. If prior to 31 March the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC by mail vote.

Non-submission of the plans referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and quotas**

12. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a).
13. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group referred to paragraphs 21 to 26, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
14. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
15. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or the individual quotas allocated for catching vessels over 24 m and included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
16. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
17. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
18. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
19. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted from 2013.
20. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Any CPC joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPC if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 6**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its catching vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

duration,  
identity of the operators involved,  
individual vessels' quotas,  
the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and  
the information on the fattening or farming farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

### **Open fishing seasons**

21. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
22. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June, with the exception of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October.
23. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October.
24. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
25. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
26. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 21 to 25 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

### **Spawning grounds**

27. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification, as precisely as possible, of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries.

### **Use of aircraft**

28. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

### **Minimum size**

29. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms.
30. By derogation of paragraph 29, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75cms fork length shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.

31. For catching vessels and traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to the incidental catch.

### **By-catch**

32. Catching vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time following each fishing operation, bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to by-catch.

### **Recreational fisheries**

33. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
34. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

35. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
36. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
37. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.

### **Sport fisheries**

38. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
39. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
40. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
41. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.



**P a r t I I I**  
**Capacity management measures**

**Adjustment of fishing capacity**

42. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
43. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 42 to 51, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping.
44. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage, of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels and by vessel type for other fishing vessels.
45. Paragraph 44 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
46. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
47. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
48. Without prejudice to paragraph 47, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 44, 45 and 46 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting.
49. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.
50. The SCRS shall consider the estimated yearly catch rates and update the Commission of any changes annually prior to the Commission meeting.
51. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

**Adjustment of farming capacity**

52. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan in case of modification of the plan approved in 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 53 to 55.
53. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
54. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
55. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 54, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
56. The plans referred to in paragraphs 42 to 55 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 11 of this recommendation.

**P a r t I V**  
**Control measures**

**ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna**

57. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel shall be registered in only one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b). Without prejudice to paragraph 32, for the purposes of this recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

58. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 21 to 25, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.a).

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorisation. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 57;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases to the Compliance Committee not sufficiently justified or incomplete as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original change request.

59. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 11-12] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

**ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

60. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
61. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 60. Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 11-12 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

**Information on fishing activities**

62. By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include:

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
- c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
- d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

63. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 62 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

### **Transshipment**

64. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
65. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

66. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival,
  - b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
  - c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
  - d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
  - e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transshipped.

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved,
- b) the date and port of the transshipment,
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.

### **Recording requirements**

- 67. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 68. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 69. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all landing times and at all landing places. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

- 70. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
  - a) estimated time of arrival,
  - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
  - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken;

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

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

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 11 of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

All caging operations and transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the farming and designated port CPC authorities.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

71. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

### **Communication of catches**

72. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area, including nil returns.

For purse seiners such daily report shall be on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis including those where the catch was zero.

Such reports shall be transmitted on a daily basis for purse seiners and vessels over 24 meters and for other catching vessels by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

b) Each CPC shall ensure that its traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate a daily catch report (weight and number of fish), within 48 hours by electronic or other means to their competent authorities including zero catches during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.

c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels and traps to the ICCAT Secretariat. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

### **Reporting of catches**

73. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches by gear type of bluefin tuna including by-catch and from sport and recreational fisheries and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.

74. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.

75. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 21 to 26 as well as when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

### **Cross check**

76. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers 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.

### **Transfer operations**

77. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag State or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,

estimated time of transfer,

estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,

information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,

- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- Port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code followed by three numbers.

78. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 57.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the following procedures.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT regional observer who shall draft and submit the report together with the video recording to the ICCAT Secretariat.

79. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC-20\*\*/xxx/ITD).
  - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
  - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.

80. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

81. For transfers of live bluefin tuna as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 9**:

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

82. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 7**) and paragraphs 91 and 92, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 78 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 79.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, or when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

83. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

### **Caging operations**

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, signed by a Regional observer, to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBS) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBS are located.

85. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 78.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation of the catching vessel's or trap flag State which must be given within 48 hours of the request.

Fish shall be caged before the 15 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including *force majeure*, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.

87. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 9**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimate by the regional observer and the farm operator an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with flag state of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of 10% of that declared by the farm operator, then the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the number and or weight in excess. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 88 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision, to refine the number and weight of the fish being caged.

The CPCs farm authorities shall ensure that the release order is carried by the farm operator within 48 hours following the arrival of a regional observer. The release shall be carried out in accordance to the procedures described in paragraph 78. Pending the results of this investigation, harvesting shall not take place and the farming section of the BCD shall not be validated.

88. CPCs shall implement pilot studies on how to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging including through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission at the 2014 Annual meeting.

A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all cagings in order to refine the number and weight of the fish in each caging operation.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to complete the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD. When the quantities of bluefin tuna are found to differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, the catching CPC shall be informed and an investigation launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 78.

The results of this programme shall be submitted annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the 2014 Annual meeting.

## VMS

89. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

No later than 31 January 2008, each CPC shall communicate without delay messages pursuant to this paragraph to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the data exchange formats and protocols adopted by the Commission in 2007.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.



On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 99 and 100 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels over 15m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorisation unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

#### **CPC Observer Programme**

90. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15m), –
- 100% of towing vessels,
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessel and trap compliance with the present recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
  - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
  - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
  - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the *ICCAT Manual* for different gears.
  - date of catch,
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC observer programmes.

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

91. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure an observer coverage of 100%: –
- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
  - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
  - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

Such purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

92. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:
- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
  - sign the ICCAT transfer declarations, caging report and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations,
  - carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

### **Enforcement**

93. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 21 to 26, 29 to 31 and 67 to 72 (closed seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

94. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 84 to 87 and 95 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

### **Access to and requirements for video records**

95. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred in paragraphs 81 and 87 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers.  
Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

### **Market measures**

96. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:
- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08/12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 09-11] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
  
  - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, reexports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species 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, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 13 are exhausted;
  
  - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation Rec. 06-07.

### **Conversion factors**

97. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

### **Growth factors**

98. The SCRS shall review information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission by the 2014 Annual meeting.

## **P a r t V**

### **ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

99. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid\*, as modified in **Annex 8**.
100. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 99 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].
101. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

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\*Note from the Secretariat: See Appendix II to Annex 7 in the *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*.

**P a r t V I**  
**Final provisions**

**102. Availability of data to the SCRS**

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present Recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

**103. Evaluation**

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

**104. Cooperation**

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

**105. Repeals**

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 12-03].

**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 30**

1. CPCs shall limit:

The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.

The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.

The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 58 of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kgs or 70 cms fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 30 of this Recommendation.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean under the conditions of this Annex shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

## Logbook Requirements

### A – CATCHING VESSELS

#### Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

#### Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available).
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type by FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day.
  - c) Record of catches including:
    - i) FAO code
    - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
    - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting.
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

#### Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transhipment:

1. Dates and port of landing /transhipment
2. Products
  - a) species and presentation by FAO code
  - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transhipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number.

#### Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude / longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
  - a) Species identification by FAO code
  - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages,
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number

5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their log book:

a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:

- amount of catches taken on board
- amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
- the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO;

b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:

- the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
- that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
- amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
- the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

#### **B – TOWING VESSELS**

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

#### **C – AUXILIARY VESSELS**

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

#### **D – PROCESSING VESSELS**

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

**Document No.**

**ICCAT Transhipment Declaration**

<p><b>Carrier vessel</b></p> <p>Name of vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  IMO No.</p>	<p><b>Fishing Vessel</b></p> <p>Name of the vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  External identification:                  Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>
Final destination: Port: Country: State:	

Departure Day    Month    Hour    Year <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return Day    Month    Hour    Year <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature:	Signature:

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit:  kilograms.

**LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT**

Port	Sea	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transshipments
	Lat. Long.									Date:                                  Place/Position: Authorization CP No. Transfer vessel Master signature:
										Name of receiver vessel: Flag ICCAT Register No. IMO No. Master's signature
										Date:                                  Place/Position: Authorization CP No. Transfer vessel Master's signature:
										Name of receiver vessel: Flag ICCAT Register No. IMO No. Master's signature

**Obligations in case of transhipment:**

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transhipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transhipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.



Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration	
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>			
Fishing vessel name:	Trap name:	Tug vessel name:	Name of destination farm:
Call sign:	ICCAT Register no.	Call sign:	ICCAT Register no:
Flag State transfer authorisation no.		Flag:	
ICCAT Register no.		ICCAT Register no:	
External identification:		External identification:	Cage Number:
Fishing logbook no.			
JFO no.			
<b>2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>			
Date: _ / _ / _-	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:		Species:	
Type of product: Live Whole Guttet Other (Specify): cify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:		Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:	
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS</b>			
Date: / /	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: / /	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	

**Catch Report Form**

*ICCAT Weekly Catch Report*

<u>Flag</u>	<i>ICCAT Number</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Report start date</i>	<i>Report end date</i>	<i>Report duration (d)</i>	<i>Catch date</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<u>Caught</u>	<i>Average weight (kg)</i>	<i>Attributed weight in case JFO (kg)</i>
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*Number of pieces*



### ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 91 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 March each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

#### Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks: –
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm observed.

#### Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag state authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated.
    - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
    - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
    - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
    - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
    - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
    - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
    - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;

- ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
  - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
  - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
  - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per that requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

#### **Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm and trap States**

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication;
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

#### **Observer fees and organization**

12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.
- c) The current programme/contract shall be evaluated prior to its re-tender in 2014.
- d) Based on this evaluation and a review of costs of other observer programmes, maximum unit costs shall be established for the programme, including but not limited to, daily rates for vessels, farms and traps and mobilization and training fees.
- e) The Commission shall assist the ICCAT Secretariat on the construction of the terms of reference and training manual prior to the launching of the new tender. New tenders shall be evaluated in accordance with the unit costs referred to in point d).

### ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

#### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
  - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC,
  - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
  - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
  - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
  - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
  - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
  - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
  - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
  - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
  - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
  - n) fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
  - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
  - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration.
  - q) transshipment at sea
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag State of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag State of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.

5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

## **II. Conduct of inspections**

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission;
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website;
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag State, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 21 of this Annex;
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master\* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary;
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity;
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag State of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector;

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\*Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.



14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them;
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements;
16. a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 January each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement;
17. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
- b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board;
18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report;
19. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State;
20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
21. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>Inspector Identity Card</p> </div> </div> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> <span style="float: right;">Valid five years</span></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin-top: 10px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>Photograph</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 150px;"></div> <p>Inspector</p> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;">Issuing Authority</p>
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### Minimum standards for video recording procedures

#### Transfers operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer without delay after the end of the transfer operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

#### Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer without delay after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT COMPLEMENTING  
RECOMMENDATION 12-03 WHICH ESTABLISHED A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR  
EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* article 88 of Recommendation 12-03 establishing the requirement to refine the number and weight of fish in each caging operation, using stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the 2013 SCRS recommendation on setting up a standardized protocol to set up a common procedure for the implementation and use of stereoscopic camera systems in all the Mediterranean and East Atlantic by 2014;

*CONSIDERING* that modifications of the fishing seasons in the Atlantic should have no incidence on the protection of the spawning grounds of eastern bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 88 of Recommendation 12-03, shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

1. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample should be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
2. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 10 meters and maximum height of 10 meters.
3. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
4. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
5. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed +/- 5 percent.
6. All the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, algorithms (length-weight relationship) shall be reviewed by the SCRS at its 2014 meeting, and if necessary modified based on SCRS recommendations at the 2014 Commission annual meeting.

In relation to the starting date of the fishing seasons for baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic, as defined in paragraph 23 of Rec 12-03, the following technical clarifications are provided:

7. For the year 2014 and 2015, and since it does not affect the protection of spawning grounds, CPCs may specify a different starting date for the fishing seasons referred to paragraph 23 of Recommendation 12-03 for their vessels operating in the Eastern Atlantic, while keeping the total duration of the open season for these fisheries in line with the provisions of the relevant articles of Rec. 12-03.
8. When submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 February as per paragraph 11 of Rec. 12-03, CPCs shall specify if the starting dates for these fisheries have been modified, as well as the coordinates of the areas concerned.
9. The period and dates for the fishing seasons in the Atlantic may be reviewed in 2015, following advice from SCRS.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION  
BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
REBUILDING PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 02-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 04-05], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 06-06], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 08-04], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 10-03], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 12-02],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

*CONSIDERING* that the 2013 scientific advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates no significant new information about the status of the stock and that under the low recruitment scenario the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is above the biomass level that can support MSY and is consistent with the Convention objective. Under the high recruitment scenario (under which higher sustainable yields are possible in the future), the stock remains overfished and overfishing will continue under the current total allowable catch (TAC),

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that the SCRS has estimated MSY to be 2,634 t under the low recruitment scenario and 6,472 t under the high recruitment scenario,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the SCRS continues to indicate that there is no strong evidence to favor either the low or high recruitment scenario over the other,

*RECOGNIZING* that the 2015 stock assessments will incorporate new data from the research conducted under the GBYP and related activities and is expected to utilize new methodologies and the SCRS peer review process,

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the value of increasing biological sampling to provide additional support toward addressing key stock assessment uncertainties,

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2015 in light of the 2015 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS,

*UNDERSCORING* that the SCRS continues to advise that protecting the strong 2003 year class would enhance its contribution to the spawning stock biomass, which has the potential to increase the productivity of the stock in the future,

*UNDERSCORING FURTHER* that SCRS has advised that increases in spawning stock biomass may help resolve the issue of low and high recruitment potential,

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS noted the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery dependent indices, and suggested using a scientific research quota to help support the improvement of stock abundance indices, including fishery independent indices, for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation,

*NOTING* that the SCRS encouraged Japan to prepare a detailed draft proposal for presentation to the Commission in November 2013 taking into consideration the SCRS and BFT species group's discussions, and Japan submitted a proposal accordingly,

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect recovery in the western Atlantic, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock,

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25],

*RENEWING* the commitment to the full implementation of existing mandatory reporting obligations including those in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13],

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

- Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will continue the 20-year rebuilding program that began in 1999 and continues through 2018.

***Effort and capacity limits***

- In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to the western Atlantic.

***TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits***

- The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 1,750 t in 2014. The annual TAC for 2015 will be set in 2014.
- The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.
- If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year.
- The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:
  - The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

- After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<b>CPC</b>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<b>&lt;2,413 t (<sup>A</sup>)</b>	<b>2,413 t (B)</b>	<b>&gt;2,413-2,660 t (C)</b>	<b>&gt;2,660 t (D)</b>
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

c) Consistent with paragraphs 1 and 6(b), the TAC for 2014 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

	<i>2014</i>
TAC	1,750 t
United States	923.70 t
Canada	381.66 t
Japan	301.64 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	4 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	4 t
Mexico	95 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 86.5 t of its adjusted quota in 2014\* to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2014 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2014\* to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e) and 6(f) above shall notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence and shall present the results of the research to the SCRS in time to inform the 2015 stock assessments.
7. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 6, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
- a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 6, with the exception of those CPCs with initial allocations of 100 t or less, for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 6 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
- b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 7(b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

\* This transfer provision will continue in 2015 if the TAC in 2015 is set at 1,750 t or higher.

### ***Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish***

8. CPCs will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
9. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm.
- 9bis. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size, except for charitable purposes.
10. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

### ***Area and time restrictions***

11. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico).

### ***Transshipment***

12. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

### ***Scientific research and data and reporting requirements***

13. In 2014, the SCRS will update the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock. In 2015 and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.
14. The SCRS shall prepare and present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of western Atlantic bluefin tuna consistent with *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detail Reports* [Res. 11-14].
15. Each CPC will prepare, where practical, a research plan to obtain reliable stock abundance indices for BFT of western origin and exchange it by April 30, 2014, for scientific review and comments, taking into account, as appropriate, the research programs proposed at the 2013 Commission meeting. CPC scientists will exchange views prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment as described in Annex 1 of Rec. 12-02 to be held in June or later of 2014 to review the research plans for their earliest implementation. In addition, the SCRS will be informed of the outcomes of these activities.
16. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicator trends and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.
17. In preparation for the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS should thoroughly review the evidence that initially was used in support of each recruitment scenario as well as any additional information available as a means of informing the Commission on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. If the SCRS is unable to support one scenario over the other, the SCRS then should provide the Commission with management advice that takes into consideration the risks (e.g., risk of not achieving the Convention objective, lost yield) that would be associated with opting to manage the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.

18. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the western Atlantic rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.
19. CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to ICCAT's GBYP. In particular, CPCs should make special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in order to provide significant new information for the new assessment. Priority research should be obtaining new information on natal origin, maturity, and age of the catch in all fisheries, following protocols developed by the SCRS. Complementary information will also be required for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock in order to evaluate the effects of mixing. In addition, it is also important to enhance, and where needed develop, an accurate abundance index for juvenile fish.
20. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
- 20bis. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].
21. As part of the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review and report to the Commission on new available information on the potential existence of additional western Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning grounds.
22. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
23. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
24. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
25. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 12-02].



**RECOMMENDATION ON BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF PROHIBITED  
SHARK SPECIES BY SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS**

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS recommended the adoption of measures to enable scientific observers to collect biological samples from the shark species for which retention is prohibited by ICCAT and which are dead at haulback, provided that such samples are for a research project notified to the SCRS.

*TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION* the shark research and data collection program developed by the Shark Working Group of the SCRS.

*NOTING* that for all these species there is an important lack of biological knowledge, for which the SCRS strongly recommends that such samples be collected.

*FURTHER NOTING* that, as recommended by the SCRS, to obtain approval of such research projects, the proposal should include a detailed document that describes the objective of the work, the number and type of sample that need to be collected and the time-area distribution of the sampling.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the importance of promoting coordination between SCRS scientists and improving collaboration on research related to shark biology, as prioritised by the SCRS shark research and data collection program.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. By derogation to ICCAT conservation measures providing for the prohibition of retaining on board certain shark species, the collection of biological samples during commercial fishing operations (e.g vertebrae, tissue, reproductive tracts, stomachs, skin samples, coil valves, jaws, whole fish or skeletons for taxonomic studies and fauna inventories) by scientific observers or individuals duly permitted by the CPC to collect biological samples is authorised under the following conditions:
  - a) The biological samples are collected only from animals which are dead at the haulback.
  - b) The biological samples are taken in the framework of a research project notified to the SCRS and developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS Shark Group. The research project should include a detailed document that describes the objective of the work, the methodologies to be used, the number and type of samples to be collected, the time-area distribution of the sampling and a chronogram of the activities to be carried out.
  - c) The biological samples must be kept on board until the port of landing or transshipment.
  - d) The authorisation of the flag State CPC or, in the case of chartered vessels, of the chartering CPC and the flag State CPC, must accompany all such samples collected according to this Recommendation until the final port of landing. Such samples and other parts of the shark specimens sampled may not be marketed or sold.
2. An annual report of the results achieved by the research project should be presented to the Shark Species Group and the SCRS. The SCRS should review and assess this report and provide advice on follow up.
3. The sampling campaign can only start once the authorisation by the relevant State has been issued.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 10-09  
ON THE BY-CATCH OF SEA TURTLES IN ICCAT FISHERIES**

*CONSIDERING* that ICCAT adopted in 2010 a recommendation to mitigate the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries (Recommendation 10-09), which requested that the SCRS initiate an assessment of the impact of incidental catch of sea turtles no later than 2013 and advise on approaches to mitigate such incidental capture, including reducing the number of interactions and/or the mortality associated with those interactions.

*NOTING* that on that basis the SCRS in 2013 made specific recommendations to maintain the provisions of Recommendation 10-09 and to call for additional measures to reduce mortality of incidentally captured sea turtles through, safe-handling practices, such as the use of line cutters and the use of de-hooking devices.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that it is necessary to amend Recommendation 10-09 to include the specific recommendations made by the SCRS in 2013.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The following sub-items are inserted after point 2. c) of Recommendation 10-09:

*d) Regarding safe-handling practices:*

- i) When a turtle is to be removed from the water, an appropriate basket lift or dip-net shall be used to bring aboard sea turtles that are hooked or entangled in gear. No turtle shall be hauled from the water by a fishing line attached to, or entangled upon the body of a turtle. If the turtle cannot be safely removed from the water, the crew should cut the line as close as possible to the hook, without inflicting additional unnecessary harm on the turtle.*
- ii) In cases where marine turtles are taken on board, vessel operators or crew shall assess the condition of sea turtles that are caught or entangled prior to release. Those turtles with difficulties to move or are unresponsive shall be kept on board to the extent practicable and assisted in a manner consistent with maximizing their survival prior to release. These practices are described further in the FAO's Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations.*
- iii) To the extent practicable, turtles handled in fishing operations or during national observer programs (e.g. tagging activities) shall be handled in a manner consistent with the FAO's Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations.*

*e) Regarding the use of line cutters:*

- i) Longline vessels shall carry on board line-cutters and use these when de-hooking is not possible without harming the marine turtle while releasing them.*
- ii) Other types of vessels that use gear that may entangle sea turtles shall carry on board line-cutters and use these tools to safely remove gear, and release sea turtles.*

*f) Regarding the use of de-hooking devices:*

*Longline vessels shall carry on board de-hooking devices to effectively remove hooks from sea turtles.*

*When a hook is swallowed, no attempt shall be made to remove the hook. Instead, the line must be cut as close to the hook as possible without inflicting additional unnecessary harm on the turtle.*

2. Points 4, 5 and 6 of Recommendation 10-09 are deleted and replaced by the following:

*4. The SCRS shall continue to improve the ERA initiated for sea turtles in 2013 and shall advise the Commission on its plan for future sea turtle impact analyses at the 2014 meeting. Upon receipt of advice from the SCRS, the Commission shall consider additional measures to mitigate sea turtle by-catch in ICCAT fisheries, if necessary.*

3. Points 7, 8 and 9 of Recommendation 10-09 become points 5, 6 and 7. 1

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)**

*RECALLING* that Resolution 11-17 urges CPCs to adopt SCRS rules, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2(ii) of Resolution 11-17, SCRS shall develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientist and observers, in the framework of its Strategic Plan, and submit this to the 2015 Commission annual meeting for endorsement.
2. Until the Commission endorses such rules of procedure for SCRS, the rules of procedure of the Commission shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the operation of SCRS.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
ICCAT RECORD OF VESSELS 20 METERS IN LENGTH OVERALL OR GREATER  
AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 2000 meeting a *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Convention Area* [Rec. 00-17],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1994 meeting a *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas* [Res. 94-08],

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries conducted by large-scale tuna fishing vessels,

*NOTING* that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention area without timely registration with the Commission,

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission, in 2002, established an ICCAT Record of Vessels 24 meters in length overall or greater and then, in 2009, expanded the list to include all vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater,

*FURTHER NOTING* that the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee, at its 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting, approved amendments to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme that remove the exclusion of vessels solely engaged in fishing, which will be considered for final adoption by IMO Assembly at its 28<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2013,

*RECOGNIZING* the utility and practicality of using IMO numbers as a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for fishing vessels,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of fishing vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater (hereinafter referred to as "large scale fishing vessels" or "LSFVs") authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area. For the purpose of this recommendation, LSFVs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species.
2. Each CPC shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the list of its LSFVs that are authorized to operate in the Convention area. The initial list and any subsequent changes shall be submitted electronically in a format provided by the Secretariat. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number –
  - IMO or LR number (if assigned) –
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)

International radio call sign (if any)

Type of vessels, length, and gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT)

Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

Gear used

Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.

The ICCAT record shall consist of all LSFVs submitted under this paragraph.

3. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record at any time such changes occur. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the period of authorization has expired.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and make the record available through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
5. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:
  - a) Authorize their LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Convention and its conservation and management measures;
  - b) Take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs comply with all the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) Take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
  - d) Ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their LSFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
  - e) Ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their LSFVs on the ICCAT record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by LSFVs not entered into the ICCAT record in the Convention area; and
  - f) Take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the LSFVs on the ICCAT record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

*5bis.* Effective January 1, 2016, flag CPCs shall authorize their commercial LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if the vessel has an IMO number or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by IHS-Fairplay (LR number), as applicable. Vessels without such a number shall not be included in the ICCAT record.

*5tris.* Paragraph 5bis shall not apply to:

- a) LSFVs unable to obtain an IMO/LR number, provided that the flag CPC provides an explanation of its inability to obtain an IMO/LR number in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.
- b) Wooden LSFVs that are not authorized to fish on the high seas, provided that the flag CPC notifies the Secretariat of the LSFVs for which it is exercising this exemption in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.

6. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report any relevant results of the review to the Commission at its annual meeting. In consideration of any CPC reports on the relevant results of such reviews, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSFVs on the ICCAT record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to ICCAT conservation and management measures.
7. a) CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by the LSFVs which are not entered into the ICCAT record.
  - b) To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
    - i) Flag CPCs or, if the vessel is under a charter arrangement, the exporting CPC shall validate statistical documents only for the LSFVs on the ICCAT record,
    - ii) CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by LSFVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and,
    - iii) CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
8. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting LSFVs not on the ICCAT record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.
9. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Executive Secretary shall request that CPC to take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.
  - b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
10. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSFVs from the Atlantic to other oceans.
- 10bis. At the 2014 meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and at the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review relevant developments on vessel numbering at the IMO, FAO, and other international fora and consider revisions, as necessary, to this Recommendation for adoption prior to the January 1, 2016 effective date of paragraph 5bis.
11. *The Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 11-12]* is replaced in its entirety by this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON VESSEL CHARTERING**

*RECOGNIZING* that, under the ICCAT Convention, Contracting Parties shall cooperate in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

*RECALLING* that, according to Article 92 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 10 December 1982, ships shall sail under the flag of one State only and shall be subject to its exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas except as otherwise provided in relevant international instruments,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the needs and interests of all States to develop their fishing fleets so as to enable them to fully utilize the fishing opportunities available to them under relevant ICCAT recommendations;

*MINDFUL* that the practice of charter arrangements, whereby fishing vessels do not change their flag, might seriously undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures established by ICCAT unless properly regulated;

*REALIZING* that there is a need for ICCAT to regulate charter arrangements with due regard to all relevant factors;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

The chartering of fishing vessels, other than bareboat chartering, shall observe the following provisions:

1. Charter arrangements may be allowed, predominantly as an initial step in the fishery development of the chartering nation. The period of the chartering arrangement shall be consistent with the development schedule of the chartering nation.
2. Chartering nations shall be Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention.
3. Fishing vessels to be chartered shall be registered to responsible Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities or by other responsible non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, which explicitly agree to apply ICCAT conservation and management measures and enforce them on their vessels. All flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities concerned shall effectively exercise their duty to control their fishing vessels to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
4. Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall ensure compliance by chartered vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT, in accordance with their rights, obligations and jurisdiction under international law.
5. Catches taken pursuant to the chartering arrangement of vessels that operate under these provisions shall be counted against the quota or fishing possibilities of the chartering Contracting Party.
6. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to ICCAT catches and other information required by SCRS.
7. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and, as appropriate, tools for differentiation of fishing areas, such as fish tags or marks, shall be used, according to the relevant ICCAT measures, for effective fishery management.
8. There shall be observer coverage of at least 10% of fishing effort, as measured in the manner specified in paragraph 1 of recommendation 10-10, for chartered vessels. All other provisions of recommendation 10-10 apply *mutatis mutandis* in the case of chartered vessels.

9. The chartered vessels shall have a fishing license issued by the chartering nation, and shall not be on the ICCAT IUU list as established by the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec.11-18].
10. When operating under charter arrangements, the chartered vessels shall not, to the extent possible, be authorized to use the quota or entitlement of the flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non- Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. In no case, shall the vessel be authorized to fish under more than one chartering arrangement at the same time.
11. Unless specifically provided in the chartering arrangement, and consistent with relevant domestic law and regulation, the catches of the chartered vessels shall be unloaded exclusively in the Ports of the chartering Contracting Party or under its direct supervision in order to assure that the activities of the chartered vessels do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. The chartering company must be legally established in the chartering Contracting Party.
12. Any transshipment at sea shall be consistent with the 2012 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* [Rec. 12-06]. Any transshipment at sea shall also be previously and duly authorized by the chartering nation and shall occur only under the supervision of an observer on board.
13. a) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the chartering Contracting Party shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - i. the name (in both native and Latin alphabets) and registration of the chartered vessel;
  - ii. the name and address of the owner(s) of the vessel;
  - iii. the description of the vessel, including the length, type of vessel and the type of fishing method(s);
  - iv. species of fish covered by the charter and quota allocated to the chartering Party;
  - v. the duration of the chartering arrangement;
  - vi. the consent of the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity; and
  - vii. the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
- b) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - i. its consent to the chartering arrangement; and
  - ii the measures adopted to implement these provisions.
  - iii its agreement to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
- c) Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall inform the Executive Secretary of the termination of the charter;
- d) The Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall circulate all the information without delay to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.
14. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT by July 31 each year, and for the previous calendar year, the particulars of charter arrangements made and carried out under this recommendation, including information of catches taken and fishing effort deployed by the chartered vessels as well as the level of observer coverage achieved on the chartered vessels, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements.
15. Each year the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a summary of all the chartering arrangements to the Commission which, at its annual meeting, shall review compliance with this recommendation.
16. Recommendation [02-21 ] is repealed and replaced by the present Recommendation.



**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO COMPLETE THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IN THE SCRS ANNUAL REPORT**

*RECOGNIZING* that, in response to ICCAT Resolution 11-14, the presentation of scientific information in the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) annual report and inter-sessional meeting reports have significantly improved.

*NOTING*, however, that the standardization of information included in the SCRS reports with respect to the quality and reliability of input data and projections of stock status can be further enhanced;

*RECALLING* the recommendation of the Kobe II Workshop of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice that the Executive Summaries of scientific reports should be standardized to the extent possible;

*RECALLING* that the Kobe III Workshop of Experts on Science recognized that substantial uncertainties still remain in the assessments and recommended that the Scientific Committees and Bodies of the t-RFMOs develop research activities to better quantify the whole uncertainty and understand how uncertainty is reflected in the risk assessment inherent in the Kobe II Strategy Matrix;

*CONSIDERING* the utility of distinguishing, where possible, between the inherent variability in natural system (*i.e.* life history parameters) which is unavoidable, and the uncertainty related to the quality of the state of knowledge of the system and of the fishery data, which could potentially be reduced through improvements to the available data and/or the models applied;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS, as part of its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Science, will develop specific formats to provide scientific advice in line with the needs of the Commission.

*FINALLY STRESSING* that the best way to tackle uncertainties related to fisheries data consists for CPCs in complying with their fundamental obligations of reporting basic catch and effort statistics, including reliable Task I and Task II data, in a due time to ensure their availability to the SCRS.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) The SCRS should clearly identify sources of variability and uncertainty and clearly explain how this variability and uncertainty affect the stock assessment results and the interpretation of the Kobe II Strategy Matrices.
- 2) The SCRS should further standardize the presentation of information included in its reports.
- 3) Therefore, in addition to the minimum elements required by Resolution 11-14, the SCRS may further score the quality of the fisheries data and related to the knowledge of the species (e.g. biological parameters, fishery distribution patterns historical data, selectivity) used as inputs to stock assessments. Qualitative scores on input data and assumptions may be detailed and should summarize the state of knowledge of the different inputs and report on:
  - a) the quality, the reliability and, where relevant, the representativeness of input data and information, such as, but not limited to, (i) fisheries statistics and fisheries indicators (e.g. catch and effort, catch-at-size and catch-at-age matrices by sex and, when applicable, fisheries dependent indices of abundance), (ii) biological information (e.g. growth parameters, natural mortality, maturity and fecundity, migrations patterns and stock structure, fisheries independent indices of abundance) and (iii) complementary information (*i.e.* consistencies among available abundance indices, influence of the environmental factors on the dynamic of the stock, changes in fishing effort distribution, selectivity and fishing power, changes in target species),

- b) limitations of the assessment models used with respect to the type and the quality of the input data,
  - c) potential biases in the assessment results associated with uncertainties of the input data.
- 4) For the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 3, the SCRS may consider a specific table or any other alternate format to be included in its annual report in association to the Kobe plot in order to summarize the information required in this resolution.
- 5) In cases where the SCRS utilizes different modeling approaches and/or scenarios (*i.e.*, sensitivity runs or alternative hypotheses) to characterize uncertainty in stock assessments, the SCRS should clearly identify what it considers as the most defensible or the most likely scenario (*i.e.*, 'base case') and provide the rationale for its decision. In cases where these different approaches and/or scenarios would finally be considered as equally plausible, this model or structural uncertainty should be accounted for in the calculation of the stock assessment parameters.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING ANNEX 1 OF RECOMMENDATION 11-20  
ON AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM**

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to analyze BCD information on a cage by cage basis;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

An asterisk (\*) shall be put on “Date of caging” and “cage number” in “6. Farming information” in Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20.

**Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**

**1. ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number\***

**2. Catch Information**

Name of the Catching Vessel or Trap name\*  
Name of the Other Vessels (in case of JFO)  
Flag\*  
ICCAT Record No.  
Individual Quota  
Quota used for this BCD  
Date, area of catch and gear used\*  
Number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sub>1</sub>  
ICCAT Record number of Joint Fishing Operation (if applicable)\*  
Tag No. (if applicable)  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**3. Trade Information for live fish trade**

*Product description*  
*Exporter/Seller information*  
*Transportation description*  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date  
*Importer/buyer*

**4. Transfer information**

*Towing vessel description*  
ICCAT Transfer Declaration No.  
Vessel name, flag  
ICCAT Record No.  
Number of fish dead during transfer  
Total weight of dead fish (kg)  
*Towing cage description*  
Cage number

**5. Transshipment information**

*Carrier vessel description*  
Name, Flag, ICCAT Record No., Date, Port name, Port state, position  
*Product description*  
(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)  
Total weight (NET)  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**6. Farming information**

*Farming facility description*  
Name, CPC\*, ICCAT FFB No.\* and location of farm  
Participation in national sampling program (yes or no)  
*Cage description*  
Date of caging\*, cage number\*

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\*Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

<sub>1</sub>Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the “Total Weight” and “Average Weight” section of the form.

*Fish description*

Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sub>1</sub>

*ICCAT Regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**7. Harvesting information**

*Harvesting description*

Date of harvest\*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight\*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

*ICCAT regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**8. Trade information**

*Product description*

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)<sub>2</sub>

Total weight (NET)\*

*Exporter/Seller information*

Point of export or departure\*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination\*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

*Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

*Importer/buyer information*

Point of import or destination\*

Import company name, address, signature and date<sub>3</sub>

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<sub>2</sub> When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product

<sub>3</sub> DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR AN  
ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) SYSTEM**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) programme;

*RECOGNIZING* the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

*NOTING* the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to implement the eBCD programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

*FOLLOWING* the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

*CONSIDERING* the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-11 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)* [Rec. 11-21] to seek “full implementation of the eBCD system before the 2013 purse seine season,” and recognizing that “a level of flexibility will be maintained based on the results of the pilot phase,”

*RECOGNIZING* the progress in the on-going development of the eBCD system, but noting that the eBCD system could not be fully tested during 2013, including during the 2013 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin purse seine season;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

*COMMITTED* to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Prior to 1 March 2015 both eBCDs and paper BCDs issued pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 11-20] shall continue to be accepted. By 16 May 2014, CPCs should notify the Secretariat of whether they intend to use the electronic system or paper BCDs during this period. Validated paper BCDs submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat.
2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for full eBCD system implementation referenced in paragraph 1, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide the necessary data as defined by the ICCAT Secretariat and endorsed by the eBCD Technical Working Group.
3. The Secretariat, with assistance from the eBCD Technical Working Group, will coordinate with the developing consortium to develop and distribute to CPCs a comprehensive technical manual and training plan before 1 March 2014.

4. During the year, CPCs shall communicate to the Secretariat and the Working Group their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation and report those experiences at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
5. The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than 1 March 2015, unless the Commission determines otherwise based on demonstration of significant problems with the design or functionality of the system.
6. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs. The Permanent Working Group assisted by the eBCD Technical Working Group will consider whether a comprehensive eBCD program recommendation is necessary and, if so, will submit that recommendation and the related technical manual to the Commission for its consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
7. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendations 11-21 and 12-08.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS**

*CONSIDERING* scientific advice released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) as the corner stone for establishing a proper management framework on stocks and fisheries under the purview of ICCAT;

*RECOGNIZING* that an in depth understanding by the Commission of scientific advice and management recommendations made by the SCRS should ease the adoption by the Commission of relevant and effective conservation measures;

*NOTING* that the ICCAT Resolution 11-17 on best available science recommends improving the communication between CPCs, the Commission and the SCRS by enabling a constant dialogue;

*RECALLING* the work in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists held in June 2013 in support of the W-BFT stock assessment;

*HIGHLIGHTING* the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Convention objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

*STRESSING* that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account Target and Limit Reference points, associated level of risks and related Harvest Control Rules consistent with Recommendation 11-13;

*STRESSING FURTHERMORE* that such enhanced dialogue should also allow the Commission to focus on the review and the establishment of research priorities, considering more particularly the development of Strategic Plan on Science, and to explore further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes;

*RECALLING* that provisions laid down in Recommendation 11-26 establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue.

*EMPHASIZING* that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the SCRS.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT**

1. A standing working group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (“SWGSM”) is established under the following objectives and rules.
2. The standing working group consists in enhancing communication and in fostering mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists, in particular on management strategies, including data collection, research needs and priorities, and establishment of limit and target reference points, as well as to promote the efficient use of scientific resources and information. The working group will seek to establish management strategies for the ICCAT fisheries which are consistent with the objectives of the ICCAT convention, an ecosystem-based approach and a precautionary approach.
3. The Chair of the standing working group will be selected by the Commission.



4. The standing working group will meet inter-sessionally and its meetings will be open to fisheries managers of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing entities (CPCs), SCRS scientists and accredited observers. Fishery managers of the CPCs and fishery scientists of the SCRS will be considered on an equal footing during the standing working group meetings. Other experts may be invited to specific meetings of the standing working group depending on the topics to be discussed.
5. The structure of the meetings will, include an open forum/dialogue. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of the standing working group.
6. The first meeting of the standing working group will take place prior to the 2014 Commission Annual Meeting. The focus of that meeting will be:
  - a. the use of  $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$  and other proxies as Target and/or Limit Reference points, Harvest Control Rules, and associated probabilities, allowing, in particular, the implementation of a precautionary approach and Recommendation 11-13, for the management of stocks under the purview of ICCAT, and
  - b. possible further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes and research needs and priorities, in particular in the light of the SCRS annual work programme and of the development of the Strategic Plan on Science.
7. Further meetings of the standing working group will be decided by the Commission during its special and regular meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY  
BUILDING FUND FOR DEVELOPING STATES WHICH ARE ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**

*RECOGNISING* that the ICCAT Commission has noted with concern the low number of participants from developing States at its scientific meetings.

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the concern expressed by several developing States, which are ICCAT CPCs on their difficulties to actively contribute to the works of SCRS and to the formulation of scientific advice due to a lack of capacity and training;

*NOTING* that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing states and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the increasing role and workload of the SCRS and the need of all Contracting Parties to actively and effectively contribute to its works;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) be established for the purposes of supporting scientists from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States in their need to acquire knowledge and develop skills on issues related to ICCAT.
2. Funds will be allocated to scientists from those developing States, which are ICCAT Contracting Parties, in order to attend ad-hoc trainings of their choice (up to 14 days) on ICCAT related matters in the scientific Institutes and, or Research Centres, of another ICCAT CPC, based on a training strategy submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the SCRS.
3. The SCBF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €80,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify a procedure for supplying funds to the SCBF in the future.
4. The Fund will be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the SCBF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, and the details of the assistance to be made available.
6. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
7. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying to the ICCAT Fund.
8. This Recommendation will be evaluated and reviewed at the latest in 2017.