

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PROHIBITION ON DISCARDS
OF TROPICAL TUNAS CAUGHT BY PURSE SEINERS**

RECALLING the FAO International Guidelines on by-catch management and reduction of discards that aim to facilitate by-catch management and reduction of discards, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fishing;

NOTING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* [Rec. 16-01] established a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas in the ICCAT Convention area;

RECOGNISING that Recommendation 16-01 envisages the adoption of provisions for better by-catch management and reduction of discards in the ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;

RECALLING that the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs* recommended development of an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries, in accordance with the FAO guidelines;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the SCRS in 2017 on tropical tunas;

RECOGNISING that other tuna RFMOs have implemented similar conservation and management measures requiring purse seiners to implement full retention of tunas;

CONCERNED by the loss of data due to discards of tuna and other species in the ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the considerable volume of tunas caught in the purse seine fishery targeting tropical tunas in the Atlantic Ocean;

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

Objective

The objective of this recommendation is to achieve a substantial reduction in discards of tropical tunas by 2020.

Retention of tuna species

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose purse seiners are authorised to fish for bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tuna in the Convention area, pursuant to paragraph 25 of Recommendation 16-01, must require these vessels to retain on board then land or tranship to port all bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tunas caught, except in the cases described in paragraph 2b.
2. The procedures for implementation of full retention requirements comprise:
 - a) No bigeye, skipjack and/or yellowfin tuna caught by a purse seiner may be discarded during the set once the net is completely closed and when more than half of the net has been retrieved. If there is a technical problem with the closing or retrieval procedure of the net such that this rule cannot be applied, the crew shall make every effort to release the tunas into the water as quickly as possible.
 - b) The following two exceptions apply to this rule:
 - i. When the vessel master determines that the tunas caught (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) are not fit for human consumption, the following definitions shall apply:

- “unfit for human consumption” refers to fish that:
 - are meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - are damaged due to depredation; or
 - have died and decomposed in the net due to a gear failure that has prevented the normal activities of retrieval of the net and fishing and efforts to release the fish alive;
 - “unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that:
 - are considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - have decomposed or are contaminated as a result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.
- ii. When the vessel master determines that the tunas (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) have been caught during the last set of a trip and there is not enough storage capacity to store the tunas (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) caught during this set, these fish may only be discarded if:
- the master or the crew attempt to release the tuna alive (bigeye, skipjack or yellowfin tuna) as quickly as possible; and
 - no other fishing operation is conducted following the discarding, until such time as the tunas (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna) onboard the vessel are landed or transhipped.

The CPC shall report all discards observed.

3. CPCs shall encourage their vessels using other gear types (i.e., longline, baitboat and gillnets) to retain onboard and land or, to the extent possible and in compliance with Recommendation 16-15, tranship at port all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna caught except in the cases where ICCAT measures in force or national regulations prohibit their retention or encourage their release.

Implementation and review

4. In 2020, the SCRS shall assess the effectiveness of this Recommendation and submit recommendations to the Commission regarding potential improvements.
5. In 2020, the SCRS shall also undertake work to examine the benefits according to the objectives defined above of retaining non-targeted species catches and present its recommendations to the Commission. The work should take into account all species that are usually discarded on all major gears (i.e., purse-seines, longlines and gillnets), and should look at fisheries that take place both on the high seas and in waters under national jurisdiction and the feasibility of both retaining on-board and processing of the associated landings.

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, REC. 16-03

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02], and the *Recommendations by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Recs. 10-02, Rec. 11-02, and Rec. 16-03];

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07];

CONSIDERING that following both the 2013 and 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS indicated that the stock was not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring, as initially determined in a 2009 stock assessment;

RECOGNIZING that based on the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that a TAC of 13,700 t has only a 36% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2028, whereas a TAC of 13,200 t would increase this probability to 50%, consistent with Recommendation 16-03;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the total allocation of fishing opportunities for North Atlantic swordfish is superior to the TAC;

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the 2017 stock assessment the SCRS indicated that the biomass for North Atlantic swordfish is close to B_{MSY} ;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries* [Rec. 96-14];

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concerns expressed by the Panel of the second ICCAT performance review regarding the possibility to transfer high underage from year to year and that this practice is inconsistent with sound management of the stock;

TAKING NOTE OF the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13];

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual Total Allowable Catch;

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

1. The Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take the following 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) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021:
 - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021:

	<i>Catch limit**</i> <i>13,200 (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	100
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
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: 100 t

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Venezuela to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 12.75 t

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal, to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

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.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.

c) If the annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,200 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 3 of this recommendation. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table 2 (b) above.

3. 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, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2.b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.

4. 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 four-year period commencing in 2018. 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 four-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2021 management period shall be applied to the four-year management period specified herein.
5. The Commission shall establish at its 2021 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the latest stock assessment as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures, as appropriate. In the event of the modification of its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15.
6. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.
7. In line with the provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07], paragraph 3, the SCRS and the Commission shall continue its 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 the Commission shall adopt a rebuilding plan, with harvest levels, as recommended by the SCRS, that will meet the Commission's objectives of maintaining or rebuilding stocks to B_{MSY} within the defined time period.
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 weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in the 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 9, 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 63 cm 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 paragraph 2.b), 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 obligations and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover overharvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not retransfer that catch limit.
13. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for North Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic swordfish.
14. CPCs may allow bycatch of North Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 13, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
15. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-03].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, REC. 16-04**

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 *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13], adopted by the Commission in 2015, for the period concerned;

RECOGNISING that it would be appropriate, as already applicable to other stocks under the purview of ICCAT, to establish an ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish;

ACKNOWLEDGING that based on the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that the current TAC of 15,000 t has only a 26% probability of rebuilding the South Atlantic swordfish stock to within MSY reference levels by 2028, whereas a TAC of 14,000 t would have a 50% probability of rebuilding the stock;

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the 2017 stock assessment the SCRS confirmed that the stock of South Atlantic swordfish is overfished;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concerns expressed by the Panel of the second ICCAT performance review regarding the possibility to transfer high underage from year to year and that this practice is inconsistent with sound management of the stocks;

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual Total Allowable Catch;

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

TAC and catch limits

1. For 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

	<i>Catch Limit (Unit: t)</i>
TAC ⁽¹⁾	14,000
Brazil ⁽²⁾	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States ⁽³⁾	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei ⁽³⁾	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan ⁽³⁾	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417

Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) The total catch for the four-year management period of 2018-2021 shall not exceed 56,000 t (14,000 t x4). If the yearly total catch of any of the four years exceeds 14,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the four-year total will not exceed 56,000 t. 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 2016 may be carried over to 2018 up to 600 t, 100 t and 300 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2017-2021 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.

Underage or overage of catch

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:

Catch Year	Adjustment Year
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 20% of the quota of the previous year.

Transfers

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), and the 50 t quota transfer from Brazil to Equatorial Guinea shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.

Minimum size

6. 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 the 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.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, 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 63 cm 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.

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish

8. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for South Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land South Atlantic swordfish.
9. CPCs may allow bycatch of South Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 8, if the CPC establishes a maximum on board bycatch limit for such vessels and that the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

Availability of data to SCRS

10. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2015, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible. From 2017 onwards, CPCs shall ensure accurate and timely data submission to the SCRS.
11. All CPCs catching swordfish in the South 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.
12. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2021, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.

Final provisions

13. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
14. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-04] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A HARVEST CONTROL RULE
FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE SUPPLEMENTING THE MULTIANNUAL
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME, REC. 16-06**

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 16-06] and, namely, the request to the SCRS to refine the testing of candidate reference points and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) to support the management objectives for North Atlantic albacore established therein;

CONSIDERING that the 2016 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the relative abundance of North Atlantic albacore has continued to increase over the last years and is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, and as a result the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

RECOGNIZING that the simulations conducted in 2017 using Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) allow the SCRS to provide advice that is robust to a wide range of uncertainties, including those affecting the 2016 assessment and that, although further work in reviewing and improving the MSE is advisable, none of the concerns is sufficient to preclude the interim implementation of any of the HCRs proposed by the SCRS to establish short-term 3-year constant annual TACs;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that an external review of the North Atlantic Albacore MSE should be considered by the Commission, ideally in 2018;

ACKNOWLEDGING the SCRS work in 2017 to test, through MSE simulations, a large set of HCRs out of which, as advised by the SWGSM, a reduced number of robust HCRs was finally considered. All the selected HCRs are predicted to meet the objectives to be in the green area of the Kobe plot with a probability higher than 60%. Moreover, 96% of the Operating Models have shown biomass above B_{MSY} with at least 60% probability between 2020-2045;

NOTING that the HCRs with the highest target fishing mortalities ($F_{TAR}=F_{MSY}$) were associated with lower probabilities, although higher than 60%, of being in the Kobe green quadrant, higher probabilities of the stock being between B_{LIM} and B_{THRESH} with only slightly higher long-term yields;

FURTHER NOTING the desire for stability in the fishery;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS tested a minimum fishing mortality (F_{MIN}) that needs to be established in order to ensure a scientific monitoring of the status of the stock should the stock status fall below safe biological limits;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that if the Commission adopts an HCR then the TAC established via Rec. 16-06 shall be re-established according to the adopted HCR;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS' intention to further explore and to consolidate the MSE framework in the future is without prejudice to the interim adoption of an HCR subject to possible future advice of the SCRS;

NOTING the importance of identifying exceptional circumstances that would result in suspending or modifying the application of the HCR;

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

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Management objectives

1. The management objectives of the multiannual management and conservation programme for North Atlantic albacore are those set out in paragraph 2 of Rec. 16-06.

PART II
BIOLOGICAL REFERENCE POINTS AND HARVEST CONTROL RULES

2. For the purpose of the multiannual management and conservation programme for the North Atlantic albacore, the following interim reference points¹ are established:
 - (a) $B_{\text{THRESH}} = B_{\text{MSY}}$
 - (b) $B_{\text{LIM}} = 0.4 * B_{\text{MSY}}$
 - (c) $F_{\text{TAR}} = 0.8 * F_{\text{MSY}}$
 - (d) $F_{\text{MIN}} = 0.1 * F_{\text{MSY}}$
3. The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years, with the next stock assessment to occur in 2020.
4. The harvest control rule (HCR) sets a 3-year constant annual total allowable catch (TAC) using the following three values estimated from each stock assessment. For each value the median values as reported in the summary table of the SCRS report shall be used:
 - a) The estimate of current stock biomass (B_{curr}) with respect to B_{MSY} .
 - b) The estimate of the stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (B_{MSY}).
 - c) The estimate of the fishing mortality at MSY (F_{MSY}).
5. The HCR shall have the form shown in **Annex 1** and the following control parameters set as per below:
 - a) The biomass threshold level (B_{THRESH}) is equal to the biomass able to deliver the maximum sustainable yield ($B_{\text{THRESH}} = B_{\text{MSY}}$).
 - b) A fishing mortality target corresponding to 80% of F_{MSY} ($F_{\text{TAR}} = 0.8 * F_{\text{MSY}}$) will be applied when the stock status is at, or above, the threshold level (B_{THRESH}).

¹ For the purposes of this Recommendation, the definitions of Harvest Control Rules and Reference Points adopted in ICCAT Recommendation 15-07 will apply.

- c) If the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM} , then fishing mortality will be reduced linearly for the next multiannual management period (F_{NEXT}) on the following basis:

$$\frac{F_{NEXT}}{F_{MSY}} = a + b * \frac{B_{curr}}{B_{MSY}} = -0.367 + 1.167 \frac{B_{curr}}{B_{MSY}}$$

$$\text{where } a = \left[\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} \right] - \left[\frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} - \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} - \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] * \frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} = -0.367$$

$$b = \left[\frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} - \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} - \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] = 1.167$$

- d) If the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or below, B_{LIM} , then the fishing mortality shall be set at F_{MIN} with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.
- e) The Maximum catch limits (C_{max}) recommended are 50,000 t to avoid adverse effects of potentially inaccurate stock assessments.
- f) The maximum change in the catch limit (D_{max}) shall not exceed 20% of the previous recommended catch limit when $B_{CURR} \geq B_{THRESH}$.
6. The HCR described in paragraph 5 (a-d) produces a relationship between stock status and fishing mortality as shown in the graph of **Annex 1**. The table of **Annex 2** reports the values of relative fishing mortality to be applied (F_{NEXT}/F_{MSY}) for specific values of relative biomass (B_{curr}/B_{MSY}).

PART III CATCH LIMITS

TAC and catch limits

7. The 3-year constant annual TAC shall be set as follows:

- a) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or above, the threshold biomass (i.e., $B_{CURR} \geq B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{TAR} * B_{CURR}$$

- b) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold biomass (i.e., $B_{CURR} < B_{MSY}$) but greater than B_{LIM} (i.e., $B_{CURR} > 0.4 * B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{NEXT} * B_{CURR}$$

where a series of indicative values for F_{NEXT} are reported in the table of **Annex 2** or can be calculated through the formula reported in paragraph 5.c above.

- c) if the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be at, or below, the B_{LIM} (i.e., $B_{CURR} \leq 0.4 * B_{MSY}$), then the catch limit shall be set at

$$1. \quad TAC = F_{MIN} * B_{CURR}$$

with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.

- d) the catch limit resulting from the above calculations will be below the maximum catch limit (C_{max}) as reported in paragraph 5e above and shall not increase or decrease by more than 20% from the previous catch limit except when $B_{CURR} < B_{THRESH}$ or unless otherwise required pursuant to an agreed management response when exceptional circumstances are determined to have occurred by the SCRS.

- e) in the case of 7c, the catch limit could be set at a level lower than $F_{\text{MIN}} * B_{\text{CURR}}$ if the SCRS considers it sufficient to ensure a level of catch proper for scientific monitoring.
8. Pursuant to paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, a 3-year constant annual TAC of 33,600 t is established for the period 2018-2020. Consistent with the TAC allocations set out in Rec. 16-06, this TAC is allocated among the CPCs as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for the period 2018-2020</i>
European Union	25,861.6
Chinese Taipei	3,926.0
United States	632.4
Venezuela	300.0

9. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the transfers stipulated by paragraph 4 of Rec. 16-06.
10. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the annual catch limit stipulated by paragraph 5 of Rec. 16-06.
11. Provisions established by paragraph 8 above are without prejudice to the derogation stipulated by paragraph 6 of Rec. 16-06.

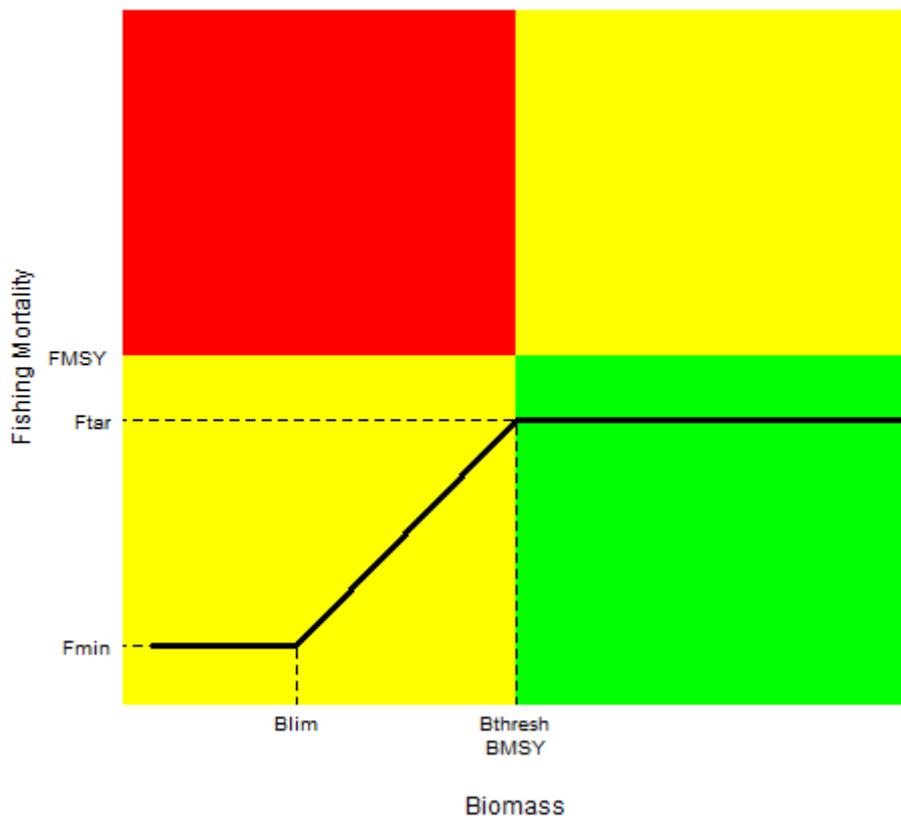
PART IV FINAL PROVISIONS

Review and exceptional circumstances

12. The SCRS is requested to develop in 2018 criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, *inter alia*, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.
13. The Commission, through the Standing Working Group of Scientists and Managers, shall develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur.
14. If exceptional circumstances occur (such as stock trajectories out of the ranges tested by the MSE, extreme environmental regime shift, inability to update the stock status, etc.), the Commission shall review and consider possible revision of the HCR. The SCRS is requested to incorporate these exceptional circumstances in future developments of the MSE framework in order to provide further advice to the Commission.
15. The SCRS shall initiate a peer-review, in time for the 2018 Commission meeting, of the northern albacore MSE, including the operating models, management procedures, calculations of the performance indicators and code. Based on this review and potential refinement of the MSE to be described in a single consolidated report, the Commission may consider additional refinements of the interim HCR in 2018.
16. During 2018-2020, the SCRS shall continue the development of the MSE framework by conducting additional diagnostic checks, exploring additional management procedures including the carry over, and identifying the Operating Models (OMs) that might not be meeting the objectives under a certain HCR. The SCRS shall also indicate the percent of OMs that meet the management objective under each HCR. The SCRS is specifically requested to test, *inter alia*, some variants of the HCR adopted in this recommendation, such as:

- a) Setting a lower TAC limit
 - b) Applying the restriction of 20% maximum TAC change when the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM}
 - c) Applying the restriction of 20% maximum TAC reduction or 25% maximum TAC increase when the current biomass (B_{CURR}) is estimated to be below the threshold level (B_{THRESH}) and higher than B_{LIM}
17. The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure.
18. This Recommendation amends paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rec. 16-06 and does not set a precedent for future implementation of HCRs. The Commission shall consolidate this Recommendation and Recommendation 16-06 into a single Recommendation at its 2018 Commission meeting.

Graphic form of the Harvest Control Rule



**Values of relative biomass and corresponding relative fishing mortality
based on a sliding linear relationship between B_{LIM} and B_{THRESH} as produced by the HCR**

B_{CURR}/B_{MSY}	F_{NEXT}/F_{MSY}
1 or above	0.80
0.98	0.78
0.96	0.75
0.94	0.73
0.92	0.71
0.90	0.68
0.88	0.66
0.86	0.64
0.84	0.61
0.82	0.59
0.80	0.57
0.78	0.54
0.76	0.52
0.74	0.50
0.72	0.47
0.70	0.45
0.68	0.43
0.66	0.40
0.64	0.38
0.62	0.36
0.60	0.33
0.58	0.31
0.56	0.29
0.54	0.26
0.52	0.24
0.50	0.22
0.48	0.19
0.46	0.17
0.44	0.15
0.42	0.12
0.40	0.10

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FOR THE STOCK OF MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

ACKNOWLEDGING that following the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore in 2017, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its advice that there is high uncertainty regarding the recent abundance trends;

HIGHLIGHTING that, according to the latest scientific advice, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the SCRS recommends to prevent an increase of the fishing effort and to maintain catches below MSY at least until abundance trends can be verified;

CONSIDERING that to prevent an increase of fishing effort and of the catches it is important to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase;

ACKNOWLEDGING the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 introducing a closure period for the longline fishery targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), with the aim of protecting juveniles of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);

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

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels are actively fishing for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement management measures for Mediterranean albacore starting in 2018 with the objective of preventing an increase of the fishing effort and of the catch level until the SCRS can deliver more accurate advice.
2. Each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of vessels that were authorized in 2017 under article 28 of Recommendation 16-05. CPCs may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.
3. Each year, fishing for Mediterranean albacore shall not be permitted from 1 October to 30 November inclusive, as long as the closure period defined in paragraph 12 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 remains in force.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR AN INTERIM CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECALLING the 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), and the Supplemental Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program (Recs. 06-06, 08-04, 10-03, 12-02, 13-09, 14-05, and 16-08);

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);

NOTING the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) conducted a stock assessment in 2017, and estimated that the biomass of the western stock of bluefin tuna has been increasing since about 2004, after two decades of stability, and in 2015 was at 69% of the 1974 biomass level under one model and 45% of the 1974 level under another;

RECOGNIZING, however, that the SCRS was unable to provide reliable biomass reference points in line with the provisions of Rec. 16-08 and could not evaluate if the stock is rebuilt to B_{MSY} under the 20-year rebuilding program that ends in 2018, because it has been unable to resolve the long-term recruitment potential;

NOTING that, in light of the longstanding uncertainty in estimating future recruitment, the SCRS in the 2017 stock assessment has provided short-term management advice based on a fishing mortality rate (i.e. $F_{0.1}$) that the SCRS considers to be a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} ;

ALSO NOTING that the $F_{0.1}$ strategy accounts for the effect of recruitment changes on stock biomass;

RECOGNIZING that although the SCRS provided advice for the 2018-2020 management period based on an $F_{0.1}$ strategy, the SCRS indicated that fishing consistently at $F_{0.1}$ would, over the long-term, cause the stock to fluctuate around a biomass level associated with that fishing mortality rate (i.e., $B_{0.1}$), whatever the future recruitment potential;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the value of $F_{0.1}$ can be higher or lower than F_{MSY} depending on the stock-recruitment relationship and, consequently, the yields associated with $F_{0.1}$ can be higher or lower than MSY-based yields;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that constant annual catches during 2018-2020 should not be greater than 2,500 t to have a 50% or greater chance of avoiding overfishing and would need to be 1,000 t or less to allow the stock biomass to continue to grow, and also aware that the Kobe matrix shows that 2,500 t has a 65% probability of avoiding overfishing in 2020;

UNDERSCORING that the results of the 2017 stock assessment and projections, including the Kobe matrix, do not capture the full degree of uncertainty with regard to the spawner-recruit relationship as well as other aspects, including the effects of stock mixing;

AWARE that the effects of stock mixing and the management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect the western Atlantic stock, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the much larger eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock;

CONCERNED as well that the SCRS has indicated that recruitment has been declining for a number of years, and there are no signs of a strong year class coming into the fishery;

DESIRING, in light of the identified unquantified uncertainties, to ensure high probability of avoiding overfishing;

ALSO DESIRING to avoid large fluctuations in catches into the future to the extent possible;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommended that the next stock assessment be conducted in 2020;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of research on the stock, including increased biological sampling, to provide additional support toward addressing some key stock assessment uncertainties;

UNDERSTANDING that the Commission intends to complete a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for western Atlantic bluefin tuna by 2020;

ANTICIPATING a transition to the use of management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for bluefin tuna and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, and the need to identify management objectives consistent with the Convention and Recs. 11-13 and 15-07;

NEEDING, therefore, to implement an interim conservation and management plan that takes into account the recent SCRS advice as a means to support such a transition to a management approach based on management procedures and incorporating the relevant provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* (Rec. 16-08);

RECOGNIZING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

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:

1. 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 shall implement the following interim conservation and management plan for the 2018-2020 period, when a management procedure tested through MSE is to be adopted.

Effort and capacity limits

2. 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

3. Pending the results of the next (i.e., 2020) stock assessment and/or SCRS recommendations based on the MSE process, the following annual total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2,350 t is established for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020.
4. The annual TACs in Paragraph 3 shall be reviewed annually by the Commission on the advice of the SCRS, which would include the review of updated fishery indicators. In support of this work, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them to the SCRS.

5. If the SCRS detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year. The Commission will review this provision in light of the development of management procedures (as described in Paragraphs 14 through 16) for this stock.
6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:
 - (a) 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

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

<i>CPC</i>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 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, 3, and 6(b), the TACs for 2018, 2019, and 2020 result in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

TAC for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020: 2,350 t

United States	1,247.86 t
Canada	515.59 t
Japan	407.48 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	5.31 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	5.31 t
Mexico	128.44 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of 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 128.44 t of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
 - (e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.

- (f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
 - (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 present the results of the research to the SCRS.
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 UK (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 130 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.

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. Any overharvest of such tolerance limit from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. 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, except as the subject of a research project notified to the SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.
- 10. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.
- 11. 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

12. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from the SCRS pursuant to paragraph 23, the Commission shall consider revising this measure and the need for alternative management actions, taking into account the efforts of Mexico and other CPCs to conserve western Atlantic bluefin tuna, including reducing bycatch.

Transshipment

13. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

Development of Management Procedures/Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

14. Through the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and Panel 2 dialogue process, management objectives and associated performance statistics that reflect the Convention objectives shall be developed for use in a MSE by the SCRS.
15. In 2018, the SCRS shall identify candidate harvest control rules (HCR) (including biomass and fishing mortality-based reference points), and initiate testing of the associated management procedures with respect to the management objectives identified pursuant to Paragraph 14. The results of these analyses shall be discussed intersessionally in 2018 and 2019 through the SWGSM and Panel 2, in order to identify the candidate management procedures for further analysis.
16. In 2019, the SCRS shall refine the MSE and continue testing the candidate management procedures. On this basis, in 2020, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures and select one for adoption and implementation, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

17. In 2020, 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.
18. By 2020, the SCRS shall provide the Commission with advice on any potential impacts due to uncertainties (including regarding the spawner-recruit relationship) of implementing an $F_{0.1}$ strategy, and, for any identified risks, advise how they could be addressed in future management decisions.
19. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall continue to collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices.
20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research, including that being undertaken through ICCAT's GBYP. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance the collection and analysis of biological samples from Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, such as through sample contributions to the coordinated sampling plan recommended by the SCRS. The SCRS will report to the Commission by 2020 on these efforts. In addition, it is important to continue to explore sampling and/or other approaches for enhancing, and where needed developing, accurate abundance indices for juvenile bluefin tuna. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.
21. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
22. 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).

23. Further to Paragraph 12, the SCRS shall review any new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and specific areas under a precautionary approach. In addition, the SCRS shall advise on the efficacy of the Gulf of Mexico directed fishery restriction to reduce mortality of spawning age bluefin tuna.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. SCRS should provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.
28. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* (Rec. 16-08).

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 14-04 ON
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to rationalize some of the existing provisions of the Recovery plan;

CONFIRMING the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2014 advice that maintaining the Total Admissible Catch (TAC) or moderately and gradually increasing over recent TACs under the current management scheme should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan;

HIGHLIGHTING that, according to the last SCRS scientific advice and even if uncertainties remain in assessment results, the goal of the recovery plan might already have been, or will soon be reached;

CONSIDERING therefore that a new phase to the recovery plan will have to be implemented following the 2014 SCRS management recommendation;

NOTING that managing fishing activities by maintaining catches at or below the MSY estimate shall also be supported by a Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) maintained over or at a level of the corresponding SSB_{MSY} ;

RECALLING that the SCRS indicated that the most precautionary MSY estimate would amount to 23,256 t and that a gradual increase of the catch level to that MSY would allow the population to increase even in the most conservative scenario;

FURTHER NOTING that annual increases of 20% of the TAC over three years would correspond to a moderate and gradual increase of the catch level to the most precautionary MSY estimate of the SCRS;

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

**Part 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 transport/farming cage, a purse seine net 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 purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine 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) "Control Transfer" means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- j) "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.
- k) "Caging" means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
- 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. Transfer operations of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seiner net or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as a transshipment.
- 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 non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- q) "BCD or electronic BCD" is a Bluefin Catch Document for bluefin tuna. As appropriate, the reference to BCD shall be replaced by eBCD.
- r) "Control cameras" means Stereoscopic Cameras and/or conventional video cameras for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- s) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.

Length of vessels

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

Part II Management measures

TAC and quotas

- 4. The Commission shall establish the management plan for the stock in 2018.

5 (a) The total allowable catches (TACs) for the years 2018-2020 shall be set at: 28,200 t for 2018; 32,240 t for 2019; and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quota scheme:

CPC	Quota 2018 (t)	Quota 2019 (t)	Quota 2020 (t)
Albania	100	130	140
Algeria	1,260	1,398	1,600
China	79	89	100
Egypt	181	240	300
European Union	15,850	17,536	19,360
Iceland*	84	112	140
Japan	2,279	2,528	2,801
Korea	160	167	180
Libya	1,846	2,021	2,210
Morocco	2,578	2,892	3,219
Norway	104	152	200
Syria	66	73	80
Tunisia	2,115	2,344	2,590
Turkey	1,414	1,824	2,240
Chinese Taipei	79	84	90
Subtotal	28,195	31,590	35,250
Unallocated Reserves	5	650	750
TOTAL	28,200	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 shall not exceed 336 t (84 t + 112 t + 140 t).

In 2018 and 2019, the Commission may distribute the unallocated reserves for 2019 and 2020 in consideration of the stock status updated by SCRS and the needs of CPCs, in particular the needs of coastal developing CPCs in their artisanal fisheries.

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

These TACs shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

(b) Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t, 50 t and 50 t of its quotas to Korea in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Depending on availability, Libya may transfer up to 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

6. If the SCRS 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.
7. In 2016 the SCRS will conduct a full stock assessment employing new modelling approaches and new information. Based on such assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise, the Commission may decide by the end of 2017 on advisable changes of the management framework for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.
8. 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. For the fisheries concerned by paragraph 20 of this Recommendation, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall specify if the starting dates have been modified, as well as the coordinates of the areas concerned. 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

9. 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 list referred to in paragraph 51.a).
10. 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 18 to 23, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
11. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
12. 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 51.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
13. 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.
14. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
15. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
16. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
17. 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 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

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

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation. In presence of force majeure, the notification of changes regarding the farm of destination is not required 10 days before the operation, but shall be provided as soon as possible and the farm State authorities shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with the description of the events constituting a force majeure.

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

18. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
19. 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 Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October.
20. 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. CPCs may specify a different starting date for the fishing seasons for these vessels operating in the eastern Atlantic, since it does not affect the protection of spawning grounds, while keeping at four months the total duration of the open season for these fisheries.
21. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
22. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
23. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 18 to 22 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

Spawning grounds

24. 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 aerial means

25. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

Minimum size

26. 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 115 cm.
27. By derogation of paragraph 26, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm 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.
28. 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 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.

By-catch

29. Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time, 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 as provided in the 2014 SCRS report.

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, whole and unprocessed, 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 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65 and 94 shall apply to by-catch.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

30. Recreational and sport fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.

31. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries and sport fisheries.

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

32. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.

33. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational and sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Dead catches of recreational and sport fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 11.

34. 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 and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole or gilled and/or gutted.

Part III

Capacity management measures

Adjustment of fishing capacity

35. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.

36. 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 35 to 45a, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping when capacity reduction is required.

37. 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.

38. Paragraph 37 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. Without prejudice to paragraph 40, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 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.
42. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear to be estimated by SCRS.
43. The SCRS shall update the Commission annually and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated catch rates.
44. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.
45. For 2018, 2019, and 2020, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall limit the numbers of their purse seiners to the numbers of purse seiners authorised in 2013 or 2014. This shall not apply to PS operating in the context of the activities referred to in paragraph 27b or to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota.
 - a) By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 37 and 39, for 2018, 2019 and 2020, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraphs 36 and 45, a higher number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such increase shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 42.

Adjustment of farming capacity

46. 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 47 to 49. Modifications of the farming management plan shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the 1 May each year.
47. 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.
48. 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.
49. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 48, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
50. The plans referred to in paragraphs 35 to 49 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 8 of this recommendation.

Part IV

Control measures

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

51. 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 may be registered in any of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b) as long as such registration is not in both lists at the same time. Without prejudice to paragraph 29, 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, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

52. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23, when applicable, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.a). For those catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and not affected by a fishing season, record on the list shall be permitted at the latest 15 days before such authorization enters into force.

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.b) shall be submitted 15 days 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 51;
- 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.

53. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

54. 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.

55. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 April each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 54.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

56. 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.

57. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 56 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

58. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.

59. 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**.

60. 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 transhipped.

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

61. 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**.
62. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
63. 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. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
64. 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 8 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.

65. 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

66. 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.

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

67. 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.

68. 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.

69. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23 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

70. 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

71. 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 letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

72. 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. Information regarding dead fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

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 51.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 procedures described in **Annex 10** and this paragraph.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be performed in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

73. 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**.
74. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

75. 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 with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

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

76. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 89 and 90, 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 72 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 73.

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. However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel to conduct a new transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer.

77. 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 75 and 76. 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

78. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical mile of farming facilities, shall be prohibited.
79. 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 72 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours / 1 working day of the request, of the catching vessel's or trap flag State, or of the CPC authorities of the farm if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours / 1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

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.

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

81. 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 8**.

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 farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the flag State of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. 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 83 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques.

82. CPCs shall take the necessary measures and actions to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging 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 Annual meetings.

83. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**.

The results of this programme shall be communicated to the catching CPC, and by the flag State of the farm CPC, to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all cagings from a JFO, 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 72 and **Annex 10**.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the deployment of a Regional Observer.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with **Annex 9**.

84. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm State control authorities.

85. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned.

86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report 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 of 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.

VMS

87. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09].

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.

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 97 and 99 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 15 m 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 with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

CPC Observer Programme

88. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
- 100% of 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

89. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure 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 transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

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

90. 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 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

91. 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 18 to 23, 26 to 28 and 61 to 65 (fishing 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.
92. 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 78 to 86 and 93 (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

93. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraph 81 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

94. 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 the Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels or traps 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 10 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

Conversion factors

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

Growth factors

96. 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 2016 Annual meeting.

Part V ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

97. 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 7**.
98. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 97 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].
99. 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.

Part VI

Final provisions

100. 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.

101. 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.

102. 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.

103. Repeals

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04].

Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 27

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 the 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 the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 52 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 kg or 70 cm fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 27 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 the 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.

No. of document

ICCAT Transshipment Declaration

<p>Carrier vessel</p> <p>Name of vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National Register No. ICCAT Register No. IMO No.</p>	<p>Fishing Vessel</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>	<p>Final destination: Port: Country: State:</p>
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	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _	From:	_ _ _		
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	To:	_ _ _	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	_ _	_ _	_ _		_ _ _		

For transshipment, 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 <i>Lat. Long.</i>	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product guttled	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
										Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's 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 transshipment:

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

Annex 4

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

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 89 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April 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 or trap 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 or trap 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, trap 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 the requirements in paragraphs 75 and 76;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
 - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals.
- 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 traps 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, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap 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, trap 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.

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.
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.

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

Minimum standards for video recording procedures**Transfers**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible 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 as soon as possible 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 caging 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.

Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 83 of this Recommendation, shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. 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 shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 10 meters and maximum height of 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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 a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. The farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
 - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
 - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
 - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
 - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.
 - ii.3 Caging report including:

- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;
 - algorithm used to convert length into weight;
 - comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{BCD}) / \text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$);
 - margin of error of the system;
 - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
 - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**;
 - after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall be not higher those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Release Protocol

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the traps CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 72.

Treatment of dead fish

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the Flag CPCs quota.

Recording/treating of dead fish during 1st transfer

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer – including “dead” fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead BFT to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK
OF SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

CONCERNED by the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that there will be a need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the future status of this stock, including total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

KNOWING that the result of the SCRS indicates that shortfin mako shark catches should be at 1000 t or below to prevent the population from decreasing further and that catches of 500 t or less would stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock;

COMMITTED to immediately taking actions to end overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding plan;

CONSIDERING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Rec. 11-13 calls for the Commission to adopt a plan to rebuild stocks in the red zone of the Kobe plot, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

ACKNOWLEDGING that according to SCRS studies, the survival rate after release of shortfin mako shark is around 70%;

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - (1) For vessels whose length is greater than 12 m,
 - a) the vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
 - b) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
 - c) the observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
 - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.
 - (2) For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12 m,
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako provided that:
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
 - b) the retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, when a CPC's domestic law requires a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and of at least 210 cm fork length for females.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the fishermen may not draw any profit from such fish, may retain on board and land incidental by-catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako.
6. The observer is also encouraged to collect biological samples such as muscular tissues (for stock identification), reproductive organ with embryo (for identification of pregnancy cycle and reproductive output) and vertebrae (for estimation of growth curve). The biological samples collected by the observer should be analyzed by CPCs concerned and the result should be submitted to the SCRS by CPCs concerned.
7. The measures contained in this recommendation are expected to prevent the population from decreasing further, stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock.
8. CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards during the first six months in 2018 by one month prior to the 2018 Commission annual meeting. The Commission at its 2018 annual meeting shall review these figures and decide whether the measures contained in this recommendation shall be modified.
9. CPCs shall also report the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako estimated based on the total fishing effort of their relevant fleets using data collected through observer programs or other relevant data collection programs. CPCs that do not authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall also record through their observer programs the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako and report it to SCRS.
10. In 2019, the SCRS shall review the effectiveness of the measures contained in this recommendation and provide the Commission with additional scientific advice on conservation and management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, which shall include:
 - a) an evaluation of whether the measures contained in this recommendation have prevented the population from decreasing further, stopped overfishing and begun to rebuild the stock, and whether or not, the probability of ending overfishing and rebuilding that would be associated with annual catch limits at 100 t increments.
 - b) a Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects timeframe(s) for rebuilding of at least two mean generation times; and

In conducting such review and providing advice to the Commission, the SCRS shall take into account:

- a) a spatial/temporal analysis of North Atlantic shortfin mako catches in order to identify areas with high interactions;
- b) available information on growth and size at maturity by sex as well as any biologically important areas (e.g. pupping grounds); and
- c) the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality.

11. This Recommendation expires on 31 December 2019. The Commission, at its 2019 annual meeting, shall develop new management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the new scientific advice from the SCRS, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to B_{MSY} within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 15-10 ON THE APPLICATION OF THE 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) system;

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 system to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

CONSIDERING the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 13-17] and the decision made at the 19th Special Meeting regarding the status of program implementation;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING the full implementation of the eBCD system since 2016;

NOTING the necessity to review in 2017 the relevance of specific derogations and their associated deadlines;

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

1. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for eBCD system implementation, 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 and maintain the data required by the eBCD system.
2. Use of the eBCD system is mandatory for all CPCs and paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted, except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 below.
3. CPCs may communicate to the Secretariat and the TWG their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation including any difficulties experienced and identification of improvements to functionalities to enhance eBCD implementation and performance. The Commission may consider these recommendations and financial support to further develop the system.
4. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs (eBCDs).
5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4 of this recommendation, the following provisions shall be applied with respect to the BCD program and its implementation through the eBCD system:

- a) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD system in accordance with part II of Recommendation 11-20, the recording of information on internal sales of bluefin tuna in the eBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) or, in the case of the European Union, within one of its Member States) is not required.
- b) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD, the domestic trade between Member States of the European Union shall be completed in the eBCD system by the seller consistent with paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20; however, in derogation to Recommendation 11-20, where such trade is of bluefin tuna that is in the following product forms listed on the eBCD, validation shall not be required: “fillets” (FL) or “other, specified” (OT). “Gilled and gutted” (GG), “dressed” (DR), and “Round” (RD) product forms will require validation. When such product (FL and OT) is packaged for transport, however, the associated eBCD number must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing any part of the tuna except for exempted products specified in paragraph 10 of Recommendation 11-20.

For such product (FL and OT), in addition to the requirements in the above paragraph, subsequent domestic trade to another Member State shall only take place when the trade information from the previous Member State has been recorded in eBCD system. Export from the European Union shall take place only if the previous trade between Member States has been properly recorded, and such export shall continue to require validation in the eBCD system consistent with paragraph 13 of Rec. 11-20.

The derogation in this paragraph expires on 31 December 2020. The European Union shall report to the Commission on the implementation of this derogation by 1 October each year of the derogation. This report shall include information on its process for verification and the outcomes of that process and data about these trade events, including relevant statistical information. Based on these reports and any other relevant information brought to the Commission, the Commission shall review the validation derogation at its 2020 annual meeting for decision on its possible extension.

The trade of live bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 11-20 unless otherwise specified in this recommendation. The validation of sections 2 (catch) and 3 (live trade) in the eBCD may be completed simultaneously in derogation to paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-20. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by Paragraph 83 of Recommendation 17-07 may be completed following caging operation.

- c) Bluefin tuna harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited is not subject to the terms of Recommendation 11-20 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 21 of that recommendation and meet the following criteria:
- i) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD concerned are individually tagged;
 - ii) Minimum information associated with the tag includes:
 - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
 - Date of capture or landing;
 - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
 - The gear utilized to catch the fish;
 - The type of product and individual weight of the tagged bluefin tuna, which may be done through the appending of an Annex. Alternatively for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 17-07) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, CPCs may instead provide the

approximate weight of individual fish within the catch upon offloading, which is determined through representative sampling. This alternative approach shall apply through 2020 unless extended by the Commission after considering CPC reports on its implementation;

- Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
- The point of export (where applicable).

iii) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.

- e) Bluefin tuna that die during the transfer, towing, or caging operations foreseen by paragraphs 71 to 86 of Recommendation 17-07 prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
 - f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as by-catch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 17-07 may be traded. In order to improve the functioning of the eBCD system access to the system by CPC authorities, port authorities and/or through authorised self-registration shall be facilitated, including by way of their national registration number. Such registration only permits access to the eBCD system and does not represent an authorisation by ICCAT; hence no ICCAT number will be issued. Flag CPCs of the vessels concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.
 - g) Paper BCDs shall continue to be used for the trade of Pacific bluefin tuna until such time as the functionality for such tracking is developed within the eBCD system. Such functionality will include the data elements listed in **Annex 1 and 2** unless otherwise decided to address future data collection needs.
 - h) The trade section of an eBCD shall be validated prior to export. The buyer information in the trade section must be entered into the eBCD system as soon as available and prior to re-export.
 - i) Access to the eBCD system shall be granted to ICCAT non-CPCs to facilitate trade of bluefin tuna. Until such time as the functionality is developed that allows non-CPC access to the system, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD program documents consistent with the terms of paragraph 6 and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system. The Secretariat shall communicate without delay to those non-CPCs known to trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna to make them aware of the eBCD system and the provisions of the BCD program applicable to them.
 - j) To the extent possible, reports generated from the eBCD system, shall fulfill the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20. CPCs shall also continue to provide those elements of the annual report that cannot be produced from the eBCD system. The reporting period for such annual reports shall be 1 January to 31 December. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD system in their Annual Reports.
6. Paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 11-20) or printed eBCDs may be used in the following cases:
- a) Landings of quantities of bluefin tuna less than one metric ton or three fish. Such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system as specified in paragraph 2.

- c) Notwithstanding the requirement to use the eBCD system in paragraph 2, paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may be used as a back-up in the limited event that technical difficulties with the system arise that preclude a CPC from using the eBCD system, following the procedures as set forth in **Annex 3**. Delays by CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the registration of users in the eBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute an acceptable technical difficulty.
- d) In the case of trade of Pacific bluefin tuna as specified in paragraph 5g.
- e) In the case of trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs where access to the eBCD system through the Secretariat (pursuant to paragraph 5(i) above) is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure the trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.

The use of a paper BCD document in the cases specified in sub-paragraphs a) through e) shall not be cited by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 11-20 and relevant provisions of this recommendation. Printed eBCDs that are validated in the eBCD system satisfy the validation requirement stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-20.

Where requested by a CPC, conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

- 7. The Technical Working Group shall continue its work and, through the ICCAT Secretariat, inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
- 8. This recommendation clarifies Recommendation 17-07 and clarifies and amends Recommendation 11-20.
- 9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin tuna Catch Documentation program to facilitate the application of the eBCD system* [Rec. 15-10].

Data requirement for the Trade of Pacific Bluefin Tuna under the BCD program

Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number

Section 2: Catch information

Name of catching vessel/trap

Flag/CPC

Area

Total weight (kg)

Section 8: Trade information

Product description

- (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

- Total weight (NET)

Exporter/seller information

- Company name

- Point of export/departure

- State of destination

Transportation description

Government validation

Importer/buyer

- Company name, license number

- Point of import or destination

ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate

Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number

Section 2: Re-export section

Re-export country/entity/fishing entity

Point of re-export

Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna

Net weight (kg)

BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export

Net weight (kg)

Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number

State of destination

Section 6: Government validation

**Procedures to allow the issuance of paper BCDs or printed eBCDs
due to technical difficulties with the eBCD system**

A. If the technical difficulty occurs during working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. As an initial step, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium to confirm and try to resolve the technical difficulty and also include the Secretariat in these communications. The implementing consortium shall provide an acknowledgement of the technical difficulty to the CPC.
2. In the case where a technical difficulty that has been confirmed by the implementing consortium cannot be resolved before a trade event must occur, the CPC shall inform the Secretariat of the nature of the technical difficulty and provide it with the information set out in the attached Appendix as well as a copy of the confirmation of the technical difficulty from the implementing consortium.
3. The Secretariat shall notify other CPCs that paper BCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty by posting the information provided in paragraph 2 above on the public part of the ICCAT website without delay. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
4. A CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall continue to work with the implementing consortium and, as appropriate, the Secretariat to resolve the issue.
5. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the eBCD system self-reporting incident site or to the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

B. If the technical difficulty occurs outside working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. The CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall immediately communicate to the Secretariat and the implementing consortium via email that it is unable to use the eBCD system with an explanation of the technical difficulty encountered. To proceed with a trade, the CPC must then access the self-reporting incident site to enter the required information specified in the attached **Appendix**. Through the site, this information will be automatically uploaded to the ICCAT website to notify other CPCs that paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
2. If the technical difficulty is not resolved before the start of the next business day of the Secretariat and the implementing consortium, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium and, as needed, the Secretariat, as soon as possible during that next business day in order to resolve the technical difficulty.
3. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

C. In all cases where a paper BCD or printed eBCD has been used in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above, the following also applies:

1. The CPC shall resume use of the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved.
2. Paper BCDs shall be converted into an eBCD by the CPC that used the paper BCD or by the ICCAT Secretariat if the CPC requests it to do so, as soon as possible following resolution of the technical difficulty. In case that conversion cannot be fully completed by the CPC that used the paper BCD, it shall contact those CPCs which received the paper BCD and request its cooperation to complete the

conversion for the e-BCD sections directly under the responsibility of the CPC which received a paper BCD. Such CPC that carried out or requested the conversion of the paper BCD shall be responsible for reporting to the Secretariat that the technical difficulty has been resolved, and, where appropriate, uploading relevant information to the self-reporting incident site. As soon as possible after resolution of the technical difficulty, a CPC that has received a paper BCD shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the paper BCD is not used for subsequent trade events.

3. Where a printed eBCD has been used, CPCs shall ensure that any missing data from the eBCD record is uploaded into the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved for the sections under their direct responsibility.
4. Paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may continue to be used until such time as the technical difficulty is resolved and the paper BCDs concerned are converted into eBCDs in accordance with the procedure above.
5. Once a paper BCD has been converted to an eBCD, all subsequent trade events of product associated with that paper BCD shall be carried out only in the eBCD system.

D. In the case of technical difficulties experienced by importing CPCs, the importing CPC may request the exporting CPC concerned to issue a paper BCD or printed eBCD to support trade after notice of the technical difficulty has been posted on the ICCAT website in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above. The exporting CPC shall verify that the notification of the technical difficulty is posted on the ICCAT website before issuing the paper BCD or printed eBCD. Importing CPCs shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website.

E. Throughout the year, the Secretariat shall compile information on cases where a CPC reported a technical difficulty and/or paper documents were issued, for review by the PWG at the subsequent ICCAT Annual meeting. If the PWG determines that the reporting procedures set forth above were not followed or that the use of paper was not otherwise consistent with the provisions of this Recommendation, the PWG will consider appropriate actions, including possible referral to the Compliance Committee, if appropriate.

F. The procedures set forth above will be reviewed in 2019 and revised, as appropriate.

Appendix

- Date
- CPC
- BCD(s) concerned
- Summary of Issue
- Date of resolution
- Incidence Number (if available)