

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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