

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*CONSIDERING* that the adoption and the further implementation of a multi-annual program for the medium-term will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical tunas fishery;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt monitoring and control measures to ensure implementation of conservation and management measures and to improve the scientific assessment of those stocks;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* about the difficulties encountered by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in investigating the state of the stocks of tropical tunas from the Convention area and to fully evaluate options for area/time closures and propose precise relevant recommendations because of the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms by some CPCs;

*RECOGNIZING* that a pilot implementation of an area/time closure will contribute to the collection of such necessary data, and will enhance the reduction of the catches of juvenile tropical tunas;

*NOTING* that the SCRS does not have the data necessary to fully evaluate options for area/time options closure and to propose precise relevant recommendations;

*RECOGNIZING* the contribution that a reduction in the harvest of juvenile tunas in the Gulf of Guinea can contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks;

*RENEWING* the commitment to fully implement the existing mandatory reporting obligations, including those referred to in point 20 and 21 of the present Recommendation;

*CONSIDERING* that Recommendation 11-01 foresees the establishment as from 2013 of an ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (hereafter referred to as ROP TROP), to ensure the observer coverage of 100% of all surface vessels fishing for tropical tunas, including support activities, in association with fish aggregation objects, including Fish Aggregating Device (FADs), from 1 January to 28 February each year, in a delineated area;

*NOTING* that the establishment of the ROP TROP has not been achieved yet, and thus the vessels concerned were not in a position to deliver the tasks expected from ROP-TROP observers and that consequently vessels used the national observers on board to complete the tasks detailed in Annex 3 of Recommendation 11-01;

*NOTING* that the data collected by national observers adequately provide the data expected from the ROP TROP program;

*FURTHER RECOGNISING* that during the area/time closure period the coverage of national observers for purse seiner fishing for tropical tunas should be increased from the minimum of 5% of the fishing effort established by Recommendation 10-10 to a 100% coverage of fishing effort;

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

*FURTHER RECALLING* that as regards skipjack tunas SCRS stated in its 2014 report that the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, and that association with FADs may also have an impact on the biology and on the ecology of yellowfin and skipjack tunas;

*NOTING* that, according to the 2014 SCRS advice, increasing harvests and fishing effort for skipjack could lead to involuntary consequences for other species that are caught in combination with skipjack in certain fisheries;

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

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

*RECALLING* measures related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

*CONSIDERING* that the multispecies characteristics of the tropical tuna fisheries makes it appropriate to extend to skipjack tuna the multi-annual management and conservation plan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna established by Recommendation 11-01, as amended by Recommendation 13-01;

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

***Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program***

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish bigeye and/or yellowfin tunas in the Convention area shall implement the Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program initiated in 2012. As from 2015, such programme shall also apply to the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.

***Capacity limitation for bigeye tuna***

2. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Program, in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a) The capacity limitation shall apply to vessels 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area.
  - b) CPCs which have been allocated a catch limit in accordance with paragraph 13 shall each year:
    - i) Adjust their fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities;
    - ii) Be restricted to the number of their vessels notified to ICCAT in 2005 as fishing for bigeye tuna. However, the maximum number of longline and purse seine vessels shall each year be subject to the following limits:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Longliners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>
China	45	-
EU	269	34
Ghana	-	13
Japan	245	-
Panama	-	3
Philippines	11	-
Korea	14	-
Chinese Taipei	75	-

- c) Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessels by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005, on the basis of two bait boats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the Commission at least 90 days before the Annual meeting. The approval is notably subject to the assessment by the SCRS of the potential impact of such a plan on the level of catches.
- d) The capacity limitation shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t.

### ***Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas***

3. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support to this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

### ***ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels***

4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels. Fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area.
5. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
6. CPCs shall without delay notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.
7. For CPCs for which a capacity limitation applies in accordance with paragraph 2b) vessels fishing tropical tunas in the Convention area may be replaced only by vessels of equivalent capacity or lesser.
8. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.
9. 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] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical vessels.

### ***Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year***

10. Each CPC shall by 1 July each year notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area in the previous calendar year.

The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of vessels to the Compliance Committee.

11. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 10 do not apply to recreational vessels.

### ***Catch limits for bigeye tuna***

12. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program is 85,000 t for bigeye tuna. The following shall apply:
  - a) If the total of catches exceeds the TAC in a given year, the excess amount shall be paid back by CPCs to which a catch limit has been granted for the species concerned. Excess quantities shall be deducted the following year on a *pro rata* basis from the adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 16 and 17.
  - b) The TAC and catch limits for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program shall be adjusted based on the latest scientific assessment available. Whatever the outcome, the relative shares used to establish the annual catch limits for the CPCs appearing in paragraph 13 shall remain unchanged.
13. The following catch limits shall be applied for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program to the following CPCs:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual catch limits for the period 2012-2015 (t)</i>
China	5,572
European Union	22,667
Ghana	4,722
Japan	23,611
Panama	3,306
Philippines	1,983
Korea	1,983
Chinese Taipei	15,583

14. Catch limits shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t. However, the following shall apply:
- CPCs which are not developing coastal States shall endeavour to maintain their annual catch less than 2,100 t;
  - if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 13 above exceeds 3,500 t for any one year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.

#### *Transfers*

15. The following annual transfer of bigeye tuna shall be authorized in 2012-2015:
- from Japan to China: 3000 t
  - from Japan to Ghana: 70 t
  - from China to Ghana: 70 t
  - from Chinese Taipei to Ghana: 70 t
  - from Korea to Ghana: 20 t

#### *Underage or overage of catch*

16. Underage or overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 13 for bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2011	2012 and/or 2013
2012	2013 and/or 2014
2013	2014 and/or 2015
2014	2015 and/or 2016
2015	2016 and/or 2017

However,

- The maximum underage that a CPC may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 30% of its annual initial catch limit;
  - For Ghana, the overage catch of bigeye tuna in the period 2006 to 2010 shall be repaid by reducing the catch limit of Ghana for bigeye tuna by a yearly amount of 337 t for the period 2012 to 2021.
17. Notwithstanding paragraph 16 if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the catch limit equal to a minimum of 125% of the excess harvest, 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.

### *TAC for yellowfin tuna*

18. The annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual program is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.

If the total catch exceeds the TAC for yellowfin tuna the Commission shall review the relevant conservation and management measures in place.

### *Recording of catch and fishing activities*

19. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 1** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

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

a) Deployment of any FAD

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

b) Visit on any FAD

- i. Type of the visit (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
- ii. Position
- iii. Date
- iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
- vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)

c) Loss of any FAD

- i. Last registered position
- ii. Date of the last registered position
- iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to under paragraphs 20(a), 20(b) and 20(c) and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs may use possible templates laid down in **Annexes 2** and **3** as reporting formats. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats.

21. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 19 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 20, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;

- b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS;
  - c) The following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
    - i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with;
    - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon or of an ecosounder associated to the FAD;
    - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.
22. To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 21 above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.
23. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide full access to VMS data and trajectories of FADs to its national scientists.

***Area/Time closure in relation with the protection of juveniles***

24. Fishing for, or supported activities to fish for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall be prohibited:
- a) From 1 January to 28 February each year, and
  - b) In the area delineated as follows:

Northern limit	African coast
Southern limit	Parallel 10° South latitude
Western limit	Meridian 5° West longitude
Eastern limit	Meridian 5° East longitude

25. The prohibition referred to in paragraph 24 includes:
- launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
  - fishing around, under, or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
  - fishing around, under, or in association with natural objects;
  - towing floating objects from inside to outside the area.
26. The efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas shall be evaluated by the SCRS in 2015.
27. Each CPC fishing in the geographical area of the area/time closure shall:
- a) Take appropriate action to ensure that all vessels flying its flag, including supply vessels, when engaged in fishing activities during the time/area closure referred to in paragraph 24, have an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 4**. The information collected by the observers shall be reported each year by 31 July to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS;
  - b) Take appropriate action against vessels flying their flag that do not comply with the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24;
  - c) Submit an annual report on their implementation of the area/time closure to the Executive Secretary, who shall report to the Compliance Committee at each Annual meeting.

### ***FAD Management Plans***

28. By 1 July of each year, CPCs with purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of such aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag, following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans suggested in **Annex 5**.
29. The Executive Secretary shall report the content of these Management Plans to SCRS and to the Compliance Committee for review at each annual meeting.
30. The Commission encourages CPCs to undertake any research intended to improve knowledge of the potential effects of FADs on the resource and the environment and on the vessel fishing effort.

### ***Non-entangling FADs***

31. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, CPCs shall replace by 2016 existing FADs with non-entangling FADs in line with the guidelines under **Annex 6** of this Recommendation. CPCs shall report to ICCAT Secretariat on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with this provision.

### ***VMS***

32. If the VMS satellite tracking device of a vessel referred to in paragraph 3 stops functioning or has a technical failure when the vessel is inside the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24, the flag State shall require the vessel to exit the area without delay. The fishing vessel shall not be authorized to enter the area again without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

### ***Identification IUU activity***

33. The Executive Secretary shall “without delay” verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Program is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 24 and 25. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall without delay report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
34. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions and the results of the relevant investigation made by the flag CPCs concerned.
35. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 32, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation in accordance with paragraph 33, on the provisional IUU list.

### ***Port Sampling Plan***

36. The Commission requests the SCRS to develop, by 2012, a Port Sampling Plan aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24.
37. Beginning in 2013, the port sampling program referred to paragraph 36 shall be implemented in landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling program shall be reported to ICCAT each year beginning in 2014, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

### ***General provisions***

38. This Recommendation replaces [Rec. 93-04], [Rec. 98-03], [Rec. 04-01], [Res. 05-03], [Rec. 08-01], [Rec. 09-01] [Rec. 10-01] Rec. [11-01] and Rec [13-01] and shall be revised in 2015.

## Requirements for Catch Recording

### Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

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

### Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, 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
6. Species identification:
  - a) By FAO code
  - b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
  - c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

### Minimum information in case of landing, transshipments:

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent



**Annex 2**

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

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.

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

(3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.

(4) E.g. width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.

(5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(6) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

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

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

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

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

(5) dd/mm/yy.

(6) hh:mm.

(7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

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

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen.

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

### Observer Program

1. Each CPC shall require its fishing vessels, including supply vessels, involved in the bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas fisheries in the area and during the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24 of this Recommendation to carry an observer.
2. The 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 assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs 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 observed.
3. The observers shall:
  - a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
  - b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 4 below;
  - c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.

#### Observer tasks

4. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
  - a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

- i) Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
  - ii) Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
  - iii) Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - iv) Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
  - v) Carry out scientific work such as collecting task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) Report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity associated with FADs made by the vessel in the area and during the period referred to in paragraph 24 of this Recommendation.
  - 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.
5. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
  6. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
  7. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 8.

### **Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels**

8. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear 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 4:
    - 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 and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

### **Duty of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

### Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and bait boat fleets must include at least:

- a) Number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type
- b) FAD design characteristics (a description)
- c) FAD markings and identifiers

and could include:

1. Objective of the FAD Management Plan
2. Description
  - a) Vessel-types and support and tender vessels
  - b) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
  - c) Reporting procedures for AFAD and DFAD deployment
  - d) Catch reporting from FAD sets (consistent with the Commission's Standards for the Provision of Operational Catch and Effort Data)
  - e) Minimum distance between AFADs
  - f) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
  - g) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
  - h) Statement or policy on "FAD ownership"
3. Institutional arrangements
  - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management plan
  - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
  - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
  - d) FAD replacement policy
  - e) Reporting obligations
  - f) Observer acceptance obligations
  - g) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
4. FAD construction specifications and requirements
  - a) Lighting requirements
  - b) Radar reflectors
  - c) Visible distance
  - d) Radio buoys (requirement for serial numbers)
  - e) Satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers)
5. Applicable areas
  - a) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
6. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan
7. Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the FAD Management Plan
8. Means for reporting to the Executive Secretary

**Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries**

- 1) The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.
- 2) The sub-surface components should be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).
- 3) When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.