CONSIDERING that the further implementation of a multi-annual programme 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;

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 further to the SCRS assessment conducted in 2015, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) concluded that the bigeye tuna stock is overfished and that overfishing is occurring;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended taking measures to reduce the bigeye TAC to levels that would allow a recovery with a high degree of probability and within a short timeframe and to find effective measures to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas;

RECOGNIZING that, in view of the state of the stock, it would be appropriate to carry out the stock assessment of bigeye in 2018;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS concluded that the current area/time closure has not been effective at reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna, and any reduction in yellowfin tuna mortality was minimal, largely due to the redistribution of effort into areas adjacent to the moratorium area;

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;

NOTING that Recommendation 14-01 brought the coverage of national observers for purse seiner fishing for tropical tunas during the area/time closure period from the minimum of 5% of the fishing effort established by Recommendation 16-14 to a 100% coverage of fishing;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS concluded that current level of scientific observers (5%) seems to be inappropriate to provide reasonable estimates of total by-catch and recommended increasing the minimum level to 20%.

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended studying the issue further, in order to determine the level of coverage appropriate to meet management and scientific objectives;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted that the current mandatory level of observer coverage of 5% may have not been implemented by many of the fleets and underlined the need for achieving those minimum coverages so as the SCRS could address the mandate given by the Commission;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS also notes that some fleets are currently implementing voluntary observer programmes that cover 100% of the fishing trips and that it also acknowledged the efforts conducted by some fleets to increase the observer coverage to 100% of the trips;

RECALLING recommendations by the 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;

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;

FURTHER NOTING that the activities of supply vessels and the use of FADs are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet;

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;

RECALLING that the FAO International Guidelines on by-catch management and reduction of discards strongly encourage RFMOs to recognise the importance of addressing by-catch and discards;

RECOGNISING that it is appropriate to better manage by-catch and reduce discard practices in ICCAT fisheries, also taking into account food security issues and the importance to improve data collection for scientific purposes;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations of the 2016 ICCAT ad-hoc Working Group on FADs, which were endorsed by the SCRS at its 2016 meeting:

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

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme

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 Programme initiated in 2012. As from 2015, such programme shall also apply to the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.

PART II
CATCH LIMITS

Catch limits for bigeye tuna

2. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 65,000 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 prorata basis from the adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 9 and 10.
b) The TAC and catch limits for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme 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 3 shall remain unchanged.

3. The following catch limits shall be applied for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme to the following CPCs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>Annual catch limits for the period 2016-2018 (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>16,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>4,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>17,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>11,679</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. 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:

   a) CPCs which are not developing coastal States shall endeavour to maintain their annual catch less than 1,575 t.

   b) if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 3 above exceeds 3,500 t in any given year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall endeavour to adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.

5. CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of bigeye caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat by the end of the following quarter. When 80% of the catch limit or threshold for a CPC is exceeded, the Secretariat shall notify that to all CPCs.

6. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 2, the Commission shall review these measures.

**Quota transfers of bigeye tuna**

7. The following annual transfer of bigeye tuna shall be authorized in 2016-2018:

   a) from Japan to China: 1,000 t
   
   b) from Japan to Ghana: 70 t

8. Notwithstanding the Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a catch limitation of bigeye tuna as per paragraph 3 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its catch limit to other CPCs with catch limits, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer shall be notified to the Secretariat in advance and may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not re-transfer that catch limit.

**Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna**

9. Underage or overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 3 for bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of catch</th>
<th>Adjustment Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016 and/or 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017 and/or 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However,

(a) The maximum underage that a CPC may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its annual initial catch limit;

(b) For Ghana, the underage 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.

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive years, 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

11. The annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme 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.

PART III
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Capacity limitation for bigeye tuna

12. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Programme, 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 3 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>Longliners</th>
<th>Purse seiners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(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 baitboats 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.

(e) Curacao shall be allowed to have up to 5 purse seiners.

(f) El Salvador shall be allowed to have up to 4 purse seiners.

(g) For CPCs for which a capacity limitation applies, vessels fishing tropical tunas in the Convention area may be replaced only by vessels of equivalent capacity or lesser vessels.

**PART IV
MANAGEMENT OF FADs**

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

13. 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 during the period 1 January to 28 February in the following area:

- Southern limit: parallel 4º / South latitude
- Northern limit: parallel 5º / North latitude
- Western limit: meridian 20º / West longitude
- Eastern limit: the African coast

14. The prohibition referred to in paragraph 13 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.

15. As soon as possible and at the latest by 2018, the SCRS shall evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas. In addition the SCRS shall advise the Commission on a possible alternative area/time-closure of fishing activities on FADs to reduce the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna at various levels.

**Limitation of FADs**

16. CPCs shall ensure that for purse seiners flying their flag and fishing for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tunas on FADs the following provisional limits are not exceeded:

- No more than 500 FADs with or without instrumental buoys are active at any one time in relation to each of its vessels through such measures as, for example, the verification of telecommunication bills.

17. The Commission shall review the provisional limits laid down in paragraph 16 at its 2017 Annual meeting following the advice of SCRS and the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs.
**FAD Management Plans**

18. 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 at least one week in advance to the 2016 meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs and subsequently by 31 January each year.

19. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be to:

   i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on targeted and non-targeted species;
   
   ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
   
   iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FAD’s set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).

20. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans as provided in Annex 6.

**FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs**

21. 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 or deploying fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation (e.g. carcasses, trunks) 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 and buoy ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
   
   v. FAD design characteristics (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 (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy\(^1\), retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD\(^2\))
   
   ii. Position
   
   iii. Date
   
   iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
   
   v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)

\(^1\) Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD’s owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FADs owner).

\(^2\) A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel’s own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FAD (opportunistic).
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 and buoy ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to above 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 should consider using the template laid down in Annex 2 as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs shall use the minimum standards recommended by SCRS in Annex 3.

22. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 21 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in Annex 4.

Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels

23. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the the ICCAT Secretariat:

i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

24. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, and the release of synthetic persistent marine debris, CPCs shall:

i. replace by 2016 existing FADs with non-entangling FADs in line with the guidelines under Annex 7 of this Recommendation.

ii. undertake research to gradually replace existing FADs with fully biodegradable and non-entangling FADs, with a view to phase out non-biodegradable FADs by 2018, if possible.

CPCs shall report on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with these provisions in their FADs Management Plans.
PART V
CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas

25. 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 of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as “authorized vessels”).

ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels

26. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels, including support 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 or to carry out any kind of support to those activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.

27. A CPC may allow by-catch of tropical tunas by vessels not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 25 and 26, if this CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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 tuna vessels.

Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year

32. Each CPC shall, by 31 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 or have offered any kind of support to the fishing activity (support vessels) in the previous calendar year. For purse seines this list shall also include the support vessels that have supported the fishing activity, irrespective of their flag.

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

33. The provisions of paragraphs 25 to 32 do not apply to recreational vessels.
Recording of catch and fishing activities

34. 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].

Identification IUU activity

35. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 13 and 14. 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 to 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.

36. 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 as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.

37. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 36, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 35, on the provisional IUU list.

Observers and compliance with area/time closure

38. Each CPC shall:
   
   (a) Take appropriate action to ensure that all vessels flying its flag, including support vessels, when engaged in fishing activities during the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13, have an observer on board in accordance with Annex 5 and report the information collected by the observers 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 13;
   
   (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.

Scientific Observers

39. For scientific observers on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area east of meridian 20º/West longitude and north of parallel 28º/South latitude the following shall apply:

   (a) Scientific observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of data throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the scientific information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.
(b) CPCs that do not accept that their national scientific observer may collect data in the EEZ of another CPC, or that do not recognize as valid the data collected in their EEZ by a scientific observer of another CPC, must inform the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS and the Compliance Committee, of their refusal within three months after the entry into force of this Recommendation or their accession to ICCAT. By such refusal, the CPC concerned shall refrain to require the deployment of its national scientific observer on vessels of another CPC.

40. For purse seine and longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs are encouraged to increase the observer coverage stipulated in Recommendation 16-14, in line with the 2016 SCRS recommendations.

41. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under domestic observer programs, including on the observer coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the 2017 Annual Meeting for further deliberation.

42. In 2017 the SCRS shall review its 2016 recommendations on observer coverage and advise the Commission on appropriate coverage levels for each tropical tuna fishery, taking in consideration the full suite of monitoring tools in the fishery.

Port Sampling Programme

43. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 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 13 for surface fishery shall be continued for landing or transhipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, 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.

PART VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists

44. CPCs shall ensure that:

   a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 34 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 21, 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 Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.

45. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data related to FADs (e.g. logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, subject to relevant confidentiality constraints.

46. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide to its national scientists full access to:

   a) VMS data of their fishing and support vessels and trajectories of FADs;
   b) Data recorded by echo-sounders;
   c) FAD logbooks and the information collected pursuant to paragraph 23;
47. CPCs shall undertake historical data mining on the use and number of deployed FADs with a view to possibly submit the relevant information by 31 January 2017 to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, who shall make them available to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs and to the SCRS.

**SCRS activity and stock assessment**

48. The SCRS shall conduct the next stock assessment of bigeye in 2018.

49. At its 2017 meeting the SCRS shall:

   (a) address to the extent possible the Recommendations made by the FAD Working Group in 2016 (Annex 8) and for the remaining ones develop a work plan to be presented to the Commission at its 2017 Annual meeting;

   (b) provide performance indicators for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna as specified in Annex 9, with the perspective to develop management strategy evaluations for tropical tunas;

   (c) develop a table for consideration by the Commission that quantifies the expected impact on MSY, $B_{MSY}$, and relative stock status for both bigeye and yellowfin resulting from reductions of the individual proportional contributions of longline, FAD purse seine, free school purse seine, and baitboat fisheries to the total catch.

**Confidentiality**

50. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with ICCAT’s data confidentiality guidelines and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

**Fishing management plans**

51. The Commission shall establish at its 2018 meeting conservation and management measures on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment on bigeye 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 submitted in 2017, so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch and capacity limits and other conservation measures in 2018, as appropriate. Those plans shall include comprehensive information about how the CPC manages capacity in the bigeye fishery. Each CPC shall submit to the Executive Secretary its 2018 development or fishing/management plan by 15 September 2017, in accordance with a template to be provided by the ICCAT Secretariat.

**Reduction of discards**

52. CPCs shall:

   - submit to the SCRS information on by-catches and discards made by fishing vessels flying their flag fishing for tropical tunas;
   - encourage the vessel owners, masters and crew fishing for tropical tunas under their flag to implement good practices to better manage by-catches and reduce discards;
   - consider designing and adopting management measures and/or management plans to better manage by-catch and reduce discards.

53. The SCRS shall:

   - evaluate the contribution of by-catches and discards to the overall catches in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, on a fishery by fishery basis;
   - advise the Commission on possible measures allowing to reduce discards and to mitigate onboard post-harvest losses and by-catch in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries.
54. When revising this Recommendation, the Commission shall consider the adoption of possible provisions for a better management of by-catches and reduction of discards in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries.

Repeals and review

55. This Recommendation replaces Rec. [15-01] and shall be revised as appropriate.
Annex 1

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, transhipments:

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

## FAD logbook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAD marking</th>
<th>Buoys ID</th>
<th>FAD type</th>
<th>Type of visit</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Estimated catches</th>
<th>By-catch</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>SKJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
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<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed

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

(4) I.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/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.
**Annex 3**

**Table 1.** Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DFAD</td>
<td>Drifting FAD</td>
<td>Bamboo or metal raft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAD</td>
<td>Anchored FAD</td>
<td>Very large buoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALOG</td>
<td>Artificial log resulting from related to human activity (and related to fishing activities)</td>
<td>Nets, wreck, ropes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HALOG</td>
<td>Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)</td>
<td>Washing machine, oil tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANLOG</td>
<td>Natural log of animal origin</td>
<td>Carcasses, whale shark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNLOG</td>
<td>Natural log of plant origin</td>
<td>Branches, trunk, palm leaf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 8).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encounter</td>
<td>Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment</td>
<td>FAD deployed at sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening</td>
<td>Consolidation of a FOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove FAD</td>
<td>FAD retrieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Fishing set on a FOB1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagging</td>
<td>Deployment of a buoy on FOB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove BUOY</td>
<td>Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel’s own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).
2 Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).
## List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month:</th>
<th>FAD Identifier</th>
<th>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</th>
<th>FAD</th>
<th>Observation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAD Marking</td>
<td>Associated buoy ID</td>
<td>FAD Type</td>
<td>Type of the associated buoy and/or electronic devices</td>
<td>FAD floating part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
(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) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
(5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
(6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.
Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 38 of this Recommendation 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;
   - The ability to collect biological samples;
   - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observer and shall:
   (a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
   (b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
   (c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.

3. 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. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
   vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with Table 1 below.

   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 period referred to in paragraph 13 of this Recommendation.
   c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transhipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.

5. 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.

6. 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 programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this Annex.
Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels

7. 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 point 3 of this Annex:
   i) satellite navigation equipment;
   ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
   iii) electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>DFAD</th>
<th>AFAD</th>
<th>HALOG</th>
<th>FALOG</th>
<th>ANLOG</th>
<th>VNLOG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate surface area of the FOB</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifies the FOB’s ID whenever present</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet owning the tracking device/echo sounder buoy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel owning the tracking device/echo sounder buoy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking device TYPE+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 6

Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

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

1. Description
   a) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
   b) Type of beacon/buoy
   c) Maximum number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
   d) Minimum distance between AFADs
   e) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
   f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
   g) Statement or policy on “FAD ownership”
   h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs

2. 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) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
   f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
   g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.

3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
   a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
   b) Lighting requirements
   c) Radar reflectors
   d) Visible distance
   e) FAD markings and identifier
   f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
   g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
   h) Satellite transceivers
   i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
   j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
   k) Management of FADs recovery.

4. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan

5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD Management Plan

Annex 7

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.
Annex 8

Activities to be included in the work plan to be developed by SCRS

1. Review the available information on fishing capacity and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.

2. By taking into account as baseline the outputs of the EU CECOFAD research project (SCRS/2016/30) the SCRS shall:
   
   (a) develop a set of definitions for floating objects and types of activities developed on them including “FAD sets” and “FAD fishing”. In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established;
   
   (b) review and recommend additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks;
   
   (c) establish guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.

3. Develop fisheries indicators describing catch compositions, size structures and catch average sizes of the different metiers contributing to the tropical tunas’ fishing mortality and in particular of purse seine fleets fishing on floating objects.

4. Provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.

5. In collaboration with the Secretariat, provide advice to establish a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.
## Indicative Performance indicators to support decision-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance metrics and associated statistics</th>
<th>Unit of measurement</th>
<th>Type of statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Minimum biomass relative to B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>B/ B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>Minimum over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Mean biomass relative to B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>B/ B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>Geometric mean over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>F/ F&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>Geometric mean over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant</td>
<td>B, F</td>
<td>Proportion of years that B≥B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt; &amp; F≤F&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>B, F</td>
<td>Proportion of years that B≤B&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt; &amp; F≥F&lt;sub&gt;MSY&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Probability that biomass is above B&lt;sub&gt;lim&lt;/sub&gt;&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of years that B&gt;B&lt;sub&gt;lim&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Probability of B&lt;sub&gt;lim&lt;/sub&gt;&lt;sub&gt;&lt;&lt;/sub&gt;B&lt;B&lt;sub&gt;thresh&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of years that B&lt;sub&gt;lim&lt;/sub&gt;&lt;B&lt;B&lt;sub&gt;thresh&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Yield</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Mean catch – short term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean over 1-3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Mean catch – medium term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean over 4-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Mean catch – long term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Stability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch</td>
<td>Catch (C)</td>
<td>Mean over [x] years of (C&lt;sub&gt;n&lt;/sub&gt;-C&lt;sub&gt;n-1&lt;/sub&gt;)/ C&lt;sub&gt;n-1&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Variance in catch</td>
<td>Catch (C)</td>
<td>Variance over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Probability in shutdown</td>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Proportion of years that TAC=0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Proportion of management cycles when the ration change&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt; (TAC&lt;sub&gt;n&lt;/sub&gt;-TAC&lt;sub&gt;n-1&lt;/sub&gt;)/TAC&lt;sub&gt;n-1&lt;/sub&gt;&gt;X%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods.</td>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Maximum ratio of change&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
2. This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4.
3. This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than Blim the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to F<sub>lim</sub>, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have B&gt;B<sub>lim</sub>.
4. Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
5. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
6. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs)

1. An ad hoc Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:

   a) Consider ways to reduce juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in FADs fishing;

   b) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, including by estimating the past and current number of and different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, including to quantify the effort associated with this type of fishery;

   c) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;

   d) Based on the best available information, examine:

      i. the fishing capacity for all components of ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, including the relative contribution of FAD fishing to overall fishing mortality by age or size category;

      ii. assessed and projected changes, in bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack Biomass and MSY estimates, associated to different selectivity patterns and juveniles fishing mortality levels.
e) Assess the developments in FAD-related technology, including with regard to:
   - Technological improvement in relation to fishing mortality.
   - FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs.
   - Reducing FADs’ ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.

f) Identify management options and common standards for FAD management, including the regulation of: 1) FAD sets; 2) deployment limits of FADs and buoys (by distinguishing total number of deployed buoys and the number of active ones); 3) characteristics of FADs, such as marking; 4) activities of purse seiners, baitboats and support vessels, in particular the link established in fishing operations between support vessels and individual fishing vessels, and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic eco-systems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel’s ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.

g) Identify and assess options for and timing of recovery of FADs and/or mitigating FAD losses in order to ensure a proper management of their potential impact on different coastal and high-sea components of the marine environment.

h) Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2016 and thereafter as appropriate.

2. The third meeting of this ad hoc Working Group shall take place in 2017 and thereafter as appropriate.

3. The ad hoc Working Group shall report on its work with a view to recommend the adoption of appropriate measures at the relevant ICCAT Commission meeting.

4. The ICCAT Commission, at its annual meetings, will review the progress and outcomes of the ad hoc Working Group, identify priority tasks, and assess future needs.

5. The ad hoc Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of Panel 1 and the Chair of the SCRS. The Chairs of the ad hoc Working Group should coordinate to establish procedures to ensure a full and open exchange among all participants.

6. The structure of the meetings will include an open forum/dialogue among scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through sessions of the ad hoc Working Group, which should ensure a balanced presence and active participation of scientists and managers.

7. The ICCAT Secretariat will work with the Secretariats of other tuna RFMOs in which FAD Working Groups have been established to promote the cooperation between these groups, including through the organization of a joint session in 2017 with the interested tuna RFMOs.

8. This Recommendation repeals and replaces [Rec. 15-02].
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. 13-02];


CONSIDERING that following the 2013 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 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that a TAC of 13,700 t has an 83% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2021;

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 TAC of 13,700 t;

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

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take the following measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining B\textsubscript{MSY}, with greater than 50% probability.

2. TAC and catch limits

   a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,700 t for North Atlantic swordfish for 2017:

   b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Catch limit[**]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Union ***</td>
<td>6,718*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States***</td>
<td>3,907*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,348*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan***</td>
<td>842*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (OTs)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea***</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize***</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Catch Limits (t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 Philippines to China: 25 t
- From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t
- From Brazil, Japan, Senegal, and the United States to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 100 t for 2017, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted in 2017, 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 2017, against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.

If the total annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,700 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual adjusted 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catch year</th>
<th>Adjustment year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 50% 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 three-year period commencing in 2017. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years’ catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same three-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2015-2017 management period shall be applied to the three-year management period specified herein.

5. The Commission shall establish at its 2017 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the next 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. Each CPC shall submit its development or fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15 of each year.

6. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of 0.4*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 begin a dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec. 99-02], then the Commission shall adopt a 10-year 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 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. 13-02].
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;

CONSIDERING that the period of validity of some of the provisions established in Rec. [15-03] will expire at the end of 2016 and that it is necessary to extend the period of application of such measures until a new assessment of the South Atlantic Swordfish takes place;

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

TAC and catch limits

1. For 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>(Unit: t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAC (1)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil (2)</td>
<td>3,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>4,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>1,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>1,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States (3)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d'Ivoire</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei (3)</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (3)</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Tomé &amp; Principe</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) The total catch for the four-year management period of 2014-2017 shall not exceed 60,000 t (15,000 t x 4). If the yearly total catch of any of the four years exceeds 15,000 t, the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the four-year total will not exceed 60,000 t. If the total catch in 2016 exceeds 15,000 t and if the four-year total catch exceeds 60,000 t, the exceeded amount for four years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorata reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).

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

(3) Japan’s, U.S.A’s and Chinese Taipei’s underage in 2013 may be carried over to 2015 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2014-2017 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catch Year</th>
<th>Adjustment Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of 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) 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 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 6, 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, and not later than one week before the 2017 Swordfish data preparatory meeting. From 2017 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission to 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 2017, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4\times B_{MSY}$ 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. 15-03] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING THE RECOMMENDATION [13-04] AND ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

RECOGNIZING the outcome of the stock assessment conducted by SCRS in 2016, and in particular the overfished status of the stock over the last 30 years, as well as its current overfishing;

NOTING the high proportion of juveniles swordfish in the catches and its negative impact on the spawning biomass per recruit levels;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation by SCRS to substantially reduce catches, and to increase the monitoring of landings and discards;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recommendation by SCRS to take into account the impact of the albacore fishery on the level of catches of juvenile swordfish;

RECALLING the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation [11-13] and, for stocks overfished and subject to overfishing, the need to rebuild the stock and reduce fishing mortality;

ACKNOWLEDGING the socio economic dimension of the small scale Mediterranean fisheries and the need for a gradual approach and flexibility in managing these fisheries;

RECALLING the provisions of Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Res. 15-13] regarding the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (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 swordfish (*Xyphias gladius*) in the Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery plan starting in 2017 and continuing through 2031, with the goal of achieving B\_MSY with at least 60% probability.

Part II
Conservation Measures

Total Allowable Catch

2. For the year 2017, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be set at 10,500 t. This shall not be prejudging of the discussions to take place in the context of the Working Group referred to under paragraph 3 of this Recommendation.

3. An ICCAT Working Group shall be established in February 2017 in order to:
   a) establish a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish.
   b) establish a CPC quota for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned.
   c) establish the mechanism to manage the TAC.

---

1 On the basis of the levels of captures since 2010.
The Working Group shall, in the context of the establishment of the allocation key, use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, and notably take into consideration Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities [Res. 15-13].

4. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

5. The approach specified under paragraphs 2 and 4 shall continue to apply until a mutually agreed TAC allocation is adopted through a supplementary Recommendation.

Capacity limitations

6. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Recovery plan. In 2017 CPCs shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean swordfish to the average yearly number of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transhipped, transported, or landed Mediterranean swordfish over the period 2013-2016. However, CPCs may decide to use the number of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transhipped, transported, or landed Mediterranean swordfish in 2016, if this number is inferior to the average yearly number of vessels over the period 2013-2016. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels.

7. By derogation to paragraph 6, developing CPCs may submit a list of fishing vessels less than 7m length overall, before the 15 January 2017. From 2017 onwards, these vessels will be added to the limits referred to under paragraph 6.

8. For the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, CPCs may apply a tolerance of 5% to the capacity limit referred to under paragraph 6 of this Recommendation.

9. Developing CPCs should be allowed to submit a plan of fleet development in accordance with the fishing opportunities allocated to them in ICCAT.

10. Starting in 2018, CPCs shall submit their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 March each year. Such plan shall include detailed information regarding the quota allocated by gear type, including to sport and recreational fisheries (if applicable) and by-catches.

Closed fishing season

11. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be caught (either as a targeted species or as by-catch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during either:

   a) the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March,

   b) or, alternatively, during the period from 1 January to 31 March each year.

The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2017, the details of the closure periods of their choice.

12. In order to protect juvenile swordfish, a closure period shall also apply to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore (Thunnus alalunga) from the 1 October to 30 November each year.

13. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of the closure periods referred to under paragraphs 11 and 12, and shall submit to the Commission, at the latest two months before the Annual meeting of the Commission, all relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with these measures.

Minimum size

14. Only entire specimens of swordfish, without removal of any external part, or gilled and gutted specimens, can be retained on board, landed, transhipped and first transported after landing.
15. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale Mediterranean swordfish measuring less than 100 cm LJFL or, in alternative, weighing less than 11.4 kg of round weight or 10.2 kg of gilled and gutted weight.

16. Prior to the 2017 Annual meeting, SCRS shall provide the Commission with the confirmed average round weight and gilled and gutted weight, corresponding to the LJFL of 100 cm.

17. Incidental catch of Mediterranean swordfish below the minimum size referred to under paragraph 15 shall not be kept on board the fishing vessel, transhipped, landed, sold, displayed or offered for sale. However, the CPCs may grant tolerance to vessels which have incidentally captured small fish below the minimum size, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 5% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of the said vessels.

**Technical characteristics of the fishing gear**

18. The maximum number of hooks that can be set or taken on board of vessels targeting swordfish should be fixed at 2500 hooks. A second set of rigged hooks may be allowed on board for trips longer than 2 days provided that it is duly lashed and stowed in lower decks so that it may not readily be used.

19. Hook size should never be smaller than 7 cm of height for fishing targeting swordfish.

20. The length of the pelagic longlines will be of maximum 30 NM (55 km).

**Sport and recreational fisheries**

21. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all sport and recreational vessels authorized to catch swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea, at least 15 days before the exercise of the activities. Vessels not introduced on this list shall not be authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish. The format for submitting such list shall be simplified and include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number (if any)
- Previous name (if any)
- Vessel’s length
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

22. Only ‘rod and line’ vessels shall be authorised for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing for Mediterranean swordfish.

23. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transhipment or landing of more than one Mediterranean swordfish per vessel per day for sport and recreational fisheries.

24. The marketing of Mediterranean swordfish caught in sport and recreational fishing shall be prohibited.

25. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including round weight and length (LJFL) of each Mediterranean swordfish caught in the context of sport and recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.

26. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of Mediterranean swordfish caught alive in the framework of sport and recreational fishing, especially juveniles. Any Mediterranean swordfish however landed should be done so whole or gilled and gutted, and either in a designated port referred to under paragraph 31 of this recommendation, or with a tag affixed to each piece. Each tag shall have unique country specific number and be tamper proof. A summary of the implementation of the tagging programme shall be submitted to ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within the quota allocated to the CPC.
Part III
Control measures

ICCAT records of vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish

27. At the latest on the 15 January each year, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for swordfish. If needed, CPCs shall be able to modify this list during the year by providing an updated list to the ICCAT Secretariat.

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

28. By 15 June 2017, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for Mediterranean albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*). For the subsequent years the deadline is set at 15 March. CPCs shall provide this list according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

29. Procedures referred in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 13-13] shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

By-catch

30. CPCs may allow by-catch of Mediterranean swordfish by vessels not authorised to fish actively Mediterranean swordfish, as referred to under paragraph 27 of this recommendation, if the CPCs establish a maximum by-catch limit per vessel and per fishing operation and that the by-catch in question are deducted from the CPC’s TAC. Each CPC shall provide, in its fishing plan referred to under paragraph 10 of this recommendation, the maximum by-catch limit it allows for its vessels.

Designated ports

31. Fishing vessels shall only land Mediterranean swordfish catches, including by-catches and fish caught in the context of sport and recreational fisheries but not tagged as referred to under paragraph 26, in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing Mediterranean swordfish 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.

32. Prior to entry into port, the fishing vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port with the following:

   a) estimated time of arrival;
   b) estimate of quantity of Mediterranean swordfish retained on board;
   c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

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

33. CPC shall establish the minimum length overall of the vessels concerned by paragraphs 31 and 32.

Controls of landings

34. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to control landings of Mediterranean swordfish, and notify these measures to ICCAT when submitting its fishing plan as referred to under paragraph 10 of this recommendation.
Recording and Communication of catches

35. Each CPC shall ensure that during their period of authorisation, referred to under paragraph 27 of this recommendation, its catching vessels more than 15m fishing actively for Mediterranean swordfish communicate, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, weekly information, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of Mediterranean swordfish taken in the plan area. Such communication shall only be required when catches are reported over the period considered.

36. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that all catches by vessels flying its flag are recorded and communicated without delay to the competent authority.

37. CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of Mediterranean swordfish caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.

Transhipment

38. Transhipment operations at sea of Mediterranean swordfish shall be prohibited.

Part IV
ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection in International Waters

39. In the framework of the Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean swordfish, 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 1.

40. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 39 of this Recommendation shall apply in international waters 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].

41. When at any time, more than 50 catching vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in Mediterranean swordfish directed fishing activities, 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 V
Scientific information

42. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean. In particular, CPCs shall take the necessary measures and actions to better estimate:
   - Region specific size and age at maturity;
   - Habitat use for comparison of the availability of swordfish to the various fisheries, including comparisons between traditional and mesopelagic longlines;
   - The impact of the mesopelagic longline fisheries in terms of catch composition, CPUE series, size distribution of the catches; and
   - Monthly estimation of spawner and recruit proportion in the catches.

43. By 31 July each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:
   a) Specific information on the fishing vessel:
      - Name of the vessel (if no name, the registry number without country initials should be indicated);
      - Registry number;
      - ICCAT list number;
CPCs shall communicate this list electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

b) Specific information related to fishing activities, based on sampling or for the whole fleet:
   - Fishing period(s) and total annual number of fishing days of the vessel, by target species and area;
   - Geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, for the fishing activities carried out by the vessel, by target species and area;
   - Type of vessel, by target species and area;
   - Number of hooks used by the vessel, by target species and area;
   - Number of longline units used by the vessel, by target species and area;
   - Overall length of all longline units for the vessel, by target species and area.

c) Specific data on the catches, in the smallest time-area possible:
   - Size and, if possible, age distributions of the catches,
   - Catches and catch composition per vessel and,
   - Fishing effort (average fishing days per vessel, average number of hooks per vessel, average longline units per vessel, average overall length of longline per vessel).

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

Scientific observers

44. Each CPC shall ensure that national scientific observers are deployed on at least 5% of its pelagic longline vessels over 15 m length overall targeting Mediterranean swordfish. Each CPC shall design and implement a methodology to collect the information on the activities of the longline vessels below and up to 15 m length overall. Consistent with ICCAT Rec. [16-14] and any amendment thereto each CPC shall report this information to SCRS.

In addition to the requirement of ICCAT Rec. [16-14], scientific observers shall in particular assess and report on the level of discards of undersized swordfish.

Review

45. The SCRS shall provide in 2019 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of the most recent data available. It shall assess the effectiveness of this Recovery plan and provide advice on possible amendments of the various measures. SCRS shall advice the Commission on the appropriate characteristics of the fishing gear, the closure period for the sport and recreational fishery, as well as the minimum size to be implemented for Mediterranean swordfish.

46. Based on such scientific advice, by the end of 2019 the ICCAT shall adopt changes of the management framework for swordfish, including the revision of the catch limits and alternative management scenarios, in case this is necessary to comply with the management objectives.

Repeals

47. This Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT [Rec. 13-04].
Annex 1

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) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
   (o) transhipment 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;
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector’s own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements;

16. a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 January each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;

b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement;

17. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;

b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board;

18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission’s recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her report;

19. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State;

20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.

21. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm
RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore [Rec. 98-08], the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Management Measures for Northern Albacore [Rec. 99-05], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Programme [Rec. 13-05] and the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the North Atlantic Albacore stock [Rec. 15-04];

RECOGNISING that the set of measures laid down in those Recommendations provide together for a multi-annual conservation and management programme for North Atlantic albacore;

ACKNOWLEDGING that it would be appropriate to streamline the existing measures concerning North Atlantic albacore and combine them into one Recommendation;

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

CONSIDERING that the 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 decades and is likely somewhere in the green area of the Kobe plot, and as a result the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the 2016 SCRS was unable to advise on the risks associated to an increase of the TAC and currently does not recommend an increase of the TAC;

WELCOMING the SCRS proposal to establish a coordinated, multi-year research program in order to advance knowledge of the stock and provide more accurate scientific advice to the Commission;

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

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 North Atlantic albacore;

CONSIDERING that the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) has proposed, among other case studies, North Atlantic albacore as a suitable candidate to examine harvest control rules;

NOTING the progress achieved so far by the SCRS in the work for testing harvest control rules and conducting management strategy evaluations for North Atlantic albacore, and seeking to advance this work;

FURTHER NOTING that the SCRS intends to complete a full Management Strategy Evaluation for North Atlantic albacore in 2017;
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area shall implement this Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme.

2. The management objective for the Northern Atlantic albacore stock is:

   (a) to maintain the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot, with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long-term yield from the fishery, and

   (b) where the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been assessed by the SCRS as below the level capable of producing MSY (SSB_{MSY}), to rebuild SSB to or above SSB_{MSY}, with at least a 60% probability, and within as short time as possible, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.

PART II
CATCH LIMITS

TAC and catch limits

3. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,000 t for North Atlantic Albacore is established for 2017 and 2018. An annual TAC of 30,000 t may be established for 2019 and 2020 subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2018. If the Commission adopts a harvest control rule pursuant to paragraph 14 during the period covered by this measure, the TAC shall be re-established according to those rules.

4. The annual TAC shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) according to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>Quota (t) for the period 2017-2018</th>
<th>Quota (t) for the period 2019-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Union**</td>
<td>21,551.3</td>
<td>23,090.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei **</td>
<td>3,271.7*</td>
<td>3,505.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States**</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>564.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>267.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Quotas for 2018 may be altered contingent upon any decisions made under paragraph 3.  
2 If the TAC is increased to 30,000 t based on a decision of the Commission, these figures shall be applied to these CPCs.  
* Chinese Taipei will transfer 100 t from its quota to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and 200 t from its quota to Belize in 2017 and 2018.
** The European Union, the United States and Chinese Taipei are authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t, 150 t and 114 t respectively of their unused portion of their 2015 quotas.

5. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 shall limit their annual catches to 200 t in 2017-2018 and to 215 t in 2019-2020.

6. By derogation to paragraphs 4 and 5, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
Underage or overage of catch

7. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC’s annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Catch</th>
<th>Adjustment Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.

PART III
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

8. CPCs fishing for North Atlantic albacore shall limit the fishing capacity of their vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, fishing for this stock from 1999 onwards, through a limitation of the number vessels to the average number in the period 1993-1995.

9. The provisions of paragraph 8 do not apply to CPCs whose average catches are less than 200 t.

PART IV
CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for North Atlantic albacore and ICCAT record of vessels

10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish North Atlantic albacore 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 North Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic albacore.

11. CPCs may allow by-catch of North Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch in question is accounted for within the CPC’s quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum by-catch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
PART V
HARVEST CONTROL RULES AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

12. In 2017, the SCRS shall refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g., \(SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}, SSB_{\text{LIM}}\) and \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\)) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs)\(^1\) that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 2 above. The SCRS shall also provide statistics to support decision-making in accordance with the performance indicators in Annex 2.

13. The result of the analyses described in paragraph 12 will be discussed in a dialogue between scientists and managers to be organised in 2017, either during a meeting of the SWGSM or as an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2.

14. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice provided pursuant to paragraph 12 above and the dialogue process indicated in paragraph 13, the Commission shall then endeavour in 2017 to adopt HCRs for the North Atlantic albacore, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. The application of HCR/MSE is an iterative process. For this specific purpose, the management actions below will be considered by the Commission and updated as necessary:

(a) If the average spawning stock biomass (SSB) level is less than \(SSB_{\text{LIM}}\) (i.e., \(SSB < SSB_{\text{LIM}}\)), the Commission shall adopt severe management actions immediately to reduce the fishing mortality rate, including measures that suspend the fishery and initiate a scientific monitoring quota to be able to evaluate stock status. This scientific monitoring quota shall be set at the lowest possible level to be effective. The Commission shall not consider re-opening the fishery until the average SSB level exceeds \(SSB_{\text{LIM}}\) with a high probability. Further, before reopening the fishery, the Commission shall develop a rebuilding programme in order to ensure that the stock returns to the green zone of the Kobe plot.

(b) If the average SSB level is equal to or less than \(SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\) and equal to or above \(SSB_{\text{LIM}}\) (i.e., \(SSB_{\text{LIM}} \leq SSB \leq SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\)) and

i. \(F\) is at or below the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall assure that that applied management measures will maintain \(F\) at or below the level specified in the HCR until the average SSB is above \(SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\);

ii. \(F\) is above the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall take steps to reduce \(F\) as specified in the HCR to ensure \(F\) is at a level that will rebuild SSB to \(SSB_{\text{MSY}}\) or above that level.

(c) If the average SSB is above \(SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\) but \(F\) exceeds \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\) (i.e., \(SSB > SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\) and \(F > F_{\text{TARGET}}\)), the Commission shall immediately take steps to reduce \(F\) to \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\).

(d) Once the average SSB level reaches or exceeds \(SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\) and \(F\) is less or equal than \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\) (i.e., \(SSB > SSB_{\text{THRESHOLD}}\) and \(F \leq F_{\text{TARGET}}\)), the Commission shall assure that applied management measures will maintain \(F\) at or below \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\) and in case \(F\) is increased to \(F_{\text{TARGET}}\) this is done with a gradual and moderate increase.

15. The HCRs referred to in paragraph 14 should be evaluated by SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. The Commission shall review the results of these evaluations and make adjustments to the HCRs as needed. If necessary, the Commission shall request SCRS to evaluate the adjusted HCRs and make further adjustments based on the feedback from SCRS. This iterative process shall continue and the Commission shall from time to time review and amend the HCRs taking into account the scientific advice.

\(^{1}\) Annex 1 provides a generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA.
PART VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

16. The Commission welcomes the initiation of a multi-year North Atlantic Albacore Tuna Research Program, as proposed by the SCRS in 2016 and described in its Albacore Work Plan, and encourages CPCs to consider ways that they can contribute to this work.

17. This Recommendation replaces the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Programme [Rec. 13-05], the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the limitation for fishing capacity on Northern Albacore [Rec. 98-08], the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning management measures for Northern Albacore [Rec. 99-05] and the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the North Albacore stock [Rec. 15-04] and shall be revised by 2018.
Annex 1

Generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA (Report of the 2010 WGSAM)
## Indicative outline of the performance metrics to be provided by SCRS to support decision-making

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNIT OF MEASUREMENT</th>
<th>TYPE OF METRICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Minimum spawner biomass relative to $B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>$B / B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>Minimum over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Mean spawner biomass relative to $B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>$B / B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>Geometric mean over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to $F_{MSY}$</td>
<td>$F / F_{MSY}$</td>
<td>Geometric mean over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant</td>
<td>$B, F$</td>
<td>Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY} &amp; F \leq F_{MSY}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant</td>
<td>$B, F$</td>
<td>Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY} &amp; F \geq F_{MSY}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Probability that spawner biomass is above $B_{lim}$ ($0.4B_{MSY}$)</td>
<td>$B / B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>Proportion of years that $B &gt; B_{lim}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Probability of $B_{lim} &lt; B &lt; B_{thresh}$</td>
<td>$B / B_{MSY}$</td>
<td>Proportion of years that $B_{lim} &lt; B &lt; B_{thresh}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Yield</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Mean catch – short term</td>
<td>Catch</td>
<td>Mean over 1-3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Mean catch – medium term</td>
<td>Catch</td>
<td>Mean over 5-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Mean catch – long term</td>
<td>Catch</td>
<td>Mean in 15 and 30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Stability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch</td>
<td>Catch ($C$)</td>
<td>Mean over [x] years of ($C_n - C_{n-1}$) / $C_{n-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Variance in catch</td>
<td>Catch ($C$)</td>
<td>Variance over [x] years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Probability of shutdown</td>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Proportion of years that $TAC=0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Probability of $TAC$ change over a certain level</td>
<td>$TAC$</td>
<td>Proportion of management cycles when the ratio of change $\frac{(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})}{TAC_{n-1}} \geq X%$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Maximum amount of $TAC$ change between management periods</td>
<td>$TAC$</td>
<td>Maximum ratio of change $\frac{(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})}{TAC_{n-1}} \geq X%$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
2. This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfill the objective represented by 1.4.
3. This differs slightly from being equal to 1. Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after $B$ has been determined to be less than $B_{lim}$, the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to $F_{lim}$, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of $F$ and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have $B > B_{lim}$.
4. Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
5. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
6. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
NOTING the conclusions of the 2016 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is, most probably, not overfished and overfishing is not occurring; 

NOTING ALSO that the SCRS concluded that projections at a level consistent with the 2016 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot across all scenarios would increase to 63% by 2020; 

ACKNOWLEDGING that total annual declared catches have been considerably lower than MSY. 

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

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

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N shall be 24,000 t for the period 2017 to 2020. 

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2016, as reported to the 2017 ICCAT meeting, exceed 24,000 t, the TAC for 2018 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2016 catch in excess of 24,000 t. 

3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catch limits (t)*</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>9400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curacao</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>1470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>4400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent and Grenadines</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK St Helena</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The following annual transfers of catch limits shall be authorized: 
  From Brazil to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2020 
  From Uruguay to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2018 
  From South Africa to Japan: 100 t in 2019-2020 

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

4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:
a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of catch</th>
<th>Adjustment year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.

c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.

d) In respect of the 2016 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available under age of total TAC.

e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3.

f) In respect of South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay, should any of these aforementioned CPCs reach their individual catch limits by 31 December, and any other aforementioned CPCs have under age available within the same year, then any or all of the aforementioned CPCs with under age available shall automatically transfer, up to a maximum of 1000 t collectively, in proportion to their respective original quotas to any of the aforementioned which has reached its catch limit for that year, on condition that such transfer of under age does not prejudice the transferring CPCs respective maximum under age allowance as set out in paragraph 4 (b). Such transfers shall be reported in CPC Compliance Reporting Tables.

5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.

6. All CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.

7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the south Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the Secretariat in accordance with [Rec. 12-07]. The Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.

8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2020. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2020 assessment.

9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2020 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2020. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2017 to 2020 TAC.
10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore 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 southern Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land southern Atlantic albacore.

11. CPCs may allow bycatch of southern Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch is accounted for within the CPC’s 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.

12. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2013 Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore Catch Limit for 2014 to 2016 [Rec. 13-06].
RECALLING the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 02-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 04-05], the Supplemental Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Recs. 06-06, 08-04, 10-03, 12-02, 13-09, and 14-05];

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

CONSIDERING that the 2014 stock assessment resulted in a more optimistic view of stock status with respect to the 2012 assessment, but that the assessment and the projections do not capture the full degree of uncertainty;

NOTING that under the low recruitment scenario the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is above the biomass level that can support MSY and is consistent with the Convention objective. Under the high recruitment scenario (under which higher sustainable yields are possible in the future), the stock remains overfished, but is not experiencing overfishing. Regardless of recruitment scenario, the spawning stock biomass has increased by 70 percent since 1998, when the rebuilding program was adopted;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has estimated MSY to be 3,050 t under the low recruitment scenario and 5,316 t under the high recruitment scenario;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS indicates that the issue of identifying either the high or low recruitment scenario, or an alternative scenario, as being the more realistic remains unresolved;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommended that the next stock assessment be conducted in 2017 to incorporate new data from the research conducted under the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program (GBYP) and related activities and to utilize new assessment methodologies;

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

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2017 in light of the 2017 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS;

UNDERSCORING that the SCRS indicates that the strong 2002/2003 year classes and recent reduction in fishing mortality have contributed to a more rapid increase in spawning stock biomass in recent years;

UNDERSCORING FURTHER that SCRS has advised that further increases in spawning stock biomass will increase the ability to discriminate between alternative recruitment hypotheses;
RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery dependent indices, and suggested that using a scientific research quota within a TAC that is consistent with scientific advice may help support the improvement of stock abundance indices, including fishery independent indices, for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation;

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

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the 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 will continue the 20-year rebuilding program that began in 1999 and continues through 2018.

   **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. The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 2,000 t in 2017.

4. The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area)</td>
<td>25 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area)</td>
<td>15 t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$&lt;$2,413 t (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>54.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>22.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>17.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (in respect of St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon)</td>
<td>0.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TAC for 2017 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAC</th>
<th>2,000 t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1,058.79 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>437.47 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>345.74 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)</td>
<td>4.51 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (in respect of St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon)</td>
<td>4.51 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>108.98 t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 108.98 t of its adjusted quota in 2017 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 2017 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 2017 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 115 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 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 SCRS pursuant to paragraph 23, the Commission shall review this measure and consider the need for alternative management actions.

**Transshipment**

13. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.
**Scientific research and data and reporting requirements**

14. In 2017, and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, inter alia, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.

15. The SCRS shall prepare and present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of western Atlantic bluefin tuna consistent with Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detail Reports [Res. 11-14].

16. 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. To advance this work, SCRS should review the current stock abundance indices for western Atlantic bluefin tuna at its 2017 data preparatory meeting, as well as analysis of any relevant non-aggregated catch and effort data that can be provided, consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.

17. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicators and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.

18. In preparation for the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS should thoroughly review the evidence that initially was used in support of each recruitment scenario as well as any additional information available that might also support alternative scenarios as a means of informing the Commission on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. If the SCRS is unable to support one scenario over the other, or provide advice based on an alternative approach, the SCRS then should provide the Commission with management advice that takes into consideration the risks (e.g., risk of not achieving the Convention objective, lost yield) associated with managing the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.

19. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the western Atlantic rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.

20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research being undertaken through ICCAT's GBYP. Based on analysis at the 2017 Bluefin Tuna Data Preparatory meeting, the SCRS will (a) identify existing Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries for which biological sampling rates should be increased, (b) identify any such fisheries for which improvements in the collection and/or provision of catch, effort, and/or size data are necessary to support the stock assessment, and (c) provide information and guidance to CPCs and the Commission in 2017 on enhancing efforts to address any deficiencies identified in (a) and (b) above. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, and SCRS will report to the Commission in 2017 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. As part of the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review 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.

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. 14-05].
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. In addition to the quota provided in the table and the footnote in Paragraph 5 of the Recommendation 14-04, Algeria may catch up to 500 t in 2017.
TAKING NOTE of the request to transfer 30 t of blue marlins from Venezuela to the European Union in 2017, in the framework of the EU pay-back plan for blue marlins and white marlins;

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

1. The following text is added at the end of paragraph 1 of Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks [Rec. 15-05]:

“In 2017 Venezuela is authorized to transfer 30 t of blue marlin to the European Union.”
CONSIDERING that in light of the results of the stock assessment of the Atlantic sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) undertaken in 2016 and in order to manage this species in a precautionary manner an annual catch limit should be established for the western and eastern stocks of Atlantic sailfish consistent with the scientific advice;

RECALLING the provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING that the western and eastern Atlantic stocks of sailfish are caught in a variety of ICCAT fisheries (e.g. longline, purse seine, recreational, and artisanal surface fisheries);

RECOGNIZING that SCRS has highlighted that recent research has demonstrated that in some longline fisheries the use of circle hooks resulted in a reduction of billfish mortality, while the catch rates of several of the target species remained the same or were greater than the catch rates observed with conventional J hooks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that catches of sailfish are likely under-reported, and according to the SCRS, this is one of the main sources of uncertainty in the assessment;

RECOGNISING the importance of the ICCAT Enhanced Research Programme for Billfish and the need to improve catch data reporting for sailfish;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels catch Atlantic sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) in the Convention Area shall ensure that management measures are in place to support the conservation of this species in line with ICCAT’s Convention objective by undertaking the following:

   (a) If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67% of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this recommendation.

   (b) To prevent catches from exceeding this level for either stock of sailfish, CPCs shall take or maintain appropriate measures to limit sailfish mortality. Such measures could include, for example: releasing live sailfish, encouraging or requiring the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implementing a minimum size, and/or limiting days at sea.

2. CPCs shall enhance their efforts to collect data on catches of sailfish, including live and dead discards, and report these data annually as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process. The SCRS shall review these data and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortality by commercial fisheries (including longline, gillnets and purse seine), recreational fisheries and artisanal fisheries.

3. The SCRS shall also develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries, in particular artisanal fisheries of developing CPCs, and shall recommend the initiative to the Commission for its approval in 2017.

4. In their Annual Reports, beginning in 2017, CPCs shall describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation.

5. This recommendation shall be reviewed in light of the outcomes of the next stock assessment for Atlantic sailfish.
RECALLING that the Commission adopted the Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks [Res. 01-11], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures and the Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation [Rec. 15-07];

FURTHER RECALLING that the Commission has adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing and caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue sharks (Prionace glauca) are caught in large numbers in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

CONSIDERING that following the stock assessment undertaken in 2015, the SCRS report states that despite the positive signs of the stock status of the North Atlantic stock of blue shark, a high level of uncertainty in data inputs and in model structural assumptions remains and, therefore, the possibility of the stock being overfished and overfishing occurring could not be ruled out;

NOTING that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results;

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

1. To ensure the conservation of the blue shark (Prionace glauca) stocks in the Atlantic Ocean, the following shall apply.

Catch limits for Blue Shark

2. If the average total catch of the North Atlantic blue shark in any consecutive two years from 2017 onward exceeds the average level observed during the period 2011-2015 (i.e. 39,102 t), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment scheduled for 2021 or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided to SCRS, the Commission shall consider introduction of additional measures.

3. Based on the results of the next stock assessment, the Commission shall consider measures necessary to sustainably utilize the South Atlantic blue shark stock.

Recording, Reporting, and Use of the Catch Information

4. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels catching blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 03-13].

5. CPCs shall implement data collection programmes that ensure the reporting of accurate blue shark catch, effort, size and discard data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II.

6. CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage blue sharks.
Scientific Research

7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake scientific research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, migrations, post-release survivorship and behavioural traits of blue sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.

8. In the light of the results of the next stock assessment of blue shark, the SCRS shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.
RECALLING that ICCAT has adopted several recommendations for sharks, either in a general or species-specific manner, in accordance with an ecosystem approach;

FURTHER RECALLING that Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing measures on Shark Conservation and Management [Rec. 12-05] requires CPCs to report their implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures;

NOTING that the Compliance Committee during the 2015 Annual meeting was able to have only brief discussions about thematic issues on compliance of shark conservation measures due to time constraint and the CPC-by-CPC review was postponed to the Compliance Committee during the 2016 Annual meeting;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the means to facilitate review process of implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures;

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

1. All CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least one month before the start of the 2017 Annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures [Rec. 04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-06, 10-07, 10-08, 11-08, 11-15, 12-05, 14-06 and 15-06] using the check sheet in Annex 1.

2. CPCs may be exempt from the submission of the check sheet when vessels flying their flag are not likely to catch any sharks species covered by the abovementioned Recommendations in paragraph 1, on the condition that the concerned CPCs obtained a confirmation by the Shark Species Group through necessary data submitted by CPCs for this purpose.
## Annex 1

### Shark Implementation Check Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rec. #</th>
<th>Para #</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status of implementation</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04-10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(1) CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(2) CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-06</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), especially those directing fishing activities for sharks, shall submit Task I and II data for sharks, as required by ICCAT data reporting procedures (including estimates of dead discards and size frequencies) in advance of the next SCRS assessment</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>09-07</td>
<td>Until such time as sustainable levels of harvest can be determined through peer reviewed stock assessments by SCRS or other organizations, CPCs shall take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle (Lamna nasus) and North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (Isurus oxyrinchus)</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09-07</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (Alopias superciliosus) in any fishery with exception of a Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>09-07</td>
<td>CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, bigeye thresher sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>09-07</td>
<td>CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for Alopias spp other than A. superciliosus in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of A. superciliosus must be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-06</td>
<td>CPCs shall include information in their 2012 Annual Reports on actions taken to implement Recommendations 04-10, 05-05, and 07-06, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-07</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in any fishery</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10-07</td>
<td>CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except for the <em>Sphyrna tiburo</em>), taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag, to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside the vessel</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>(1) Hammerhead sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. If it is not possible to provide catch data by species, they shall be provided at least by genus <em>Sphryna</em>.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from this prohibition pursuant to this paragraph should endeavor not to increase their catches of hammerhead sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except of <em>Sphyrna tiburo</em>) will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CPCs shall require that the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks are recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and operating in ICCAT managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Paragraph</strong></td>
<td><strong>Condition</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes or No</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reason</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release silky sharks unharmed, at the latest before putting the catch into the fish holds, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members. Purse seine vessels engaged in ICCAT fisheries shall endeavor to take additional measures to increase the survival rate of silky sharks incidentally caught</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(1) Silky sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. CPCs that have not reported species-specific shark data shall provide a plan by July 1, 2012, for improving their data collection for sharks on a species specific level for review by the SCRS and Commission.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from the prohibition pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase their catches of silky sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that silky sharks will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The prohibition on retention in paragraph 1 does not apply to CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead fish be landed, that the fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish and that includes a prohibition against silky shark fisheries</td>
<td>Applicable or N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CPCs shall include information in their Annual Reports on actions taken to implement their reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;Yes&quot;, explain the details of the actions. If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-06</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-06</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CPCs shall include in their annual reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-06</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CPCs shall ensure the collection of Task I and Task II data for porbeagle sharks and their submission in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. Discards and releases of porbeagle sharks shall be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.</td>
<td>Yes or No or N/A</td>
<td>If &quot;No&quot; or &quot;N/A&quot;, explain the reason.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECALLING that Article IX of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information needed for the purposes of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the 2001 Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission [Res. 01-16], in which the Commission established clear guidelines for the submission of Task I and Task II data;

ACKNOWLEDGING that poor quality data impacts the ability of the SCRS to complete robust stock assessments and provide management advice as well as the ability of the Commission to adopt effective conservation and management measures;

DETERMINED to ensure the collection of data accounting for all sources of mortality in ICCAT fisheries, for both target species and by-catch, to improve the certainty of future scientific advice while taking into account ecosystem considerations;

RECOGNIZING that observer programmes are used at both the national and RFMOs level for the purposes of collecting scientific data;

RECOGNIZING the international nature of the fishing activity on and management of ICCAT species and the consequent need to embark well-trained observers to improve the collection of relevant data, in terms of consistency and quality;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the needs of developing States with regard to capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 63/112, that encourages the development of observer programmes by RFMOs and arrangements to improve data collection;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS suggested that the current level of scientific observers (5%) seems to be inappropriate to provide reasonable estimates of total by-catch and recommended increasing the minimum level to 20%;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended studying the issue further, in order to determine the level of coverage appropriate to meet management and scientific objectives;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted that the current mandatory level of observer coverage of 5% may have not been implemented by many of the fleets and underlined the need for achieving those minimum coverages so the SCRS could address the mandate given by the Commission;

ACKNOWLEDGING that electronic monitoring systems were successfully tested in some fisheries and that the SCRS adopted minimum standards for their implementation for the tropical purse seine fleet;

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs [Rec. 10-10] and desiring to enhance its provisions to improve the availability of scientific data and the safety of observers;
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**General Provisions**

1. Notwithstanding additional observer program requirements that may be in place or adopted by ICCAT in the future for specific fisheries or fishing activities, each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (CPC) shall implement the following minimum standards and protocols with respect to their domestic scientific observer programs to ensure the collection and reporting of relevant scientific information from ICCAT fisheries.

**Qualifications of Observers**

2. Without prejudice to any training or technical qualifications recommended by the SCRS, CPCs shall ensure that their observers have the following minimum qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
   a) sufficient knowledge and experience to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear configurations;
   b) the ability to observe and record accurately the information to be collected under the Program;
   c) the capability of performing the tasks set forth in paragraph 7 below;
   d) the ability to collect biological samples; and
   e) minimum and adequate training in safety and sea survival.

3. In addition, in order to ensure the integrity of their domestic observer program, CPCs shall ensure the observers:
   a) are not crew members of the vessel being observed;
   b) are not employees of the owner or beneficial owner of the fishing vessel being observed; and
   c) do not have current financial or beneficial interests in the fisheries being observed.

**Observer Coverage**

4. Each CPC shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs:
   a) A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps, gillnet and trawl fisheries. The percentage coverage will be measured:
      i. for purse seine fisheries, in number of sets or trips;
      ii. for pelagic longline fisheries, in fishing days, number of sets, or trips;
      iii. for baitboat and trap fisheries, in fishing days;
      iv. for gillnet fisheries, in fishing hours or days; and
      v. for trawl fisheries, in fishing hauls or days.
   b) Notwithstanding paragraph a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation. Alternative approaches implemented pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the approval of the Commission at the annual meeting prior to implementation.
c) Representative temporal and spatial coverage of the operation of the fleet to ensure the collection of adequate and appropriate data as required under this Recommendation and any additional domestic CPC observer program requirements, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;

d) Data collection on pertinent aspects of the fishing operation, including catch, as detailed in paragraph 7.

5. CPCs may conclude bilateral arrangements whereby one CPC places its domestic observers on vessels flying the flag of another CPC, as long as all provisions of this Recommendation are complied with.

6. CPCs shall endeavour to ensure that observers alternate vessels between their assignments.

Tasks of the Observer

7. CPCs shall require, inter alia, observers to:

   a) record and report upon the fishing activity of the observed vessel, which shall include at least the following:

      i. data collection, that includes quantifying total target catch, discards and by-catch (including sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds), estimating or measuring size composition as practicable, disposition status (i.e., retained, discarded dead, released alive), the collection of biological samples for life history studies (e.g., gonads, otoliths, spines, scales);

      ii. collect and report on all tags found;

      iii. fishing operation information, including:

          - location of catch by latitude and longitude;
          - fishing effort information (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.);
          - date of each fishing operation, including, as appropriate, the start and stop times of the fishing activity;
          - use of fish aggregating objects, including FADs; and
          - general condition of released animals related to survival rates (i.e. dead/alive, wounded, etc.).

   b) observe and record the use of by-catch mitigation measures and other relevant information;

   c) to the extent possible, observe and report environmental conditions (e.g., sea state, climate and hydrologic parameters, etc.).

   d) observe and report on FADs, in accordance with the ICCAT Observer program adopted under the multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tuna; and

   e) perform any other scientific tasks as recommended by SCRS and agreed by the Commission.

Obligations of the Observer

8. CPCs shall ensure that the observer:

   a) does not interfere with the electronic equipment of the vessel;

   b) is familiar with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the location of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits;

   c) communicates as needed with the Master on relevant observer issues and tasks;
d) does not hinder or interfere with the fishing activities and the normal operations of the vessel;

e) participates in a debriefing session(s) with appropriate representatives of the scientific institute or the domestic authority responsible for implementing the observer program;

**Obligations of the Master**

9. CPCs shall ensure that the Master of the vessel to which the observer is assigned:

   a) permits appropriate access to the vessel and its operations;

   b) allows the observer to carry out his/her responsibilities in an effective way, including by:

   i. providing appropriate access to the vessel's gear, documentation (including electronic and paper logbooks), and catch;

   ii. communicating at any time with appropriate representatives of the scientific institute or domestic authority;

   iii. ensuring appropriate access to electronics and other equipment pertinent to fishing, including but not limited to:

   - Satellite navigation equipment
   - Electronic means of communication;

   iv. ensuring that no one on board the observed vessel tampers with or destroys observer equipment or documentation; obstructs, interferes with, or otherwise acts in a manner that could unnecessarily prevent the observer from performing his/her duties; intimidates, harasses, or harms the observer in any way; or bribes or attempts to bribe the observer.

   c) provides accommodation to observers, including berthing, food and adequate sanitary and medical facilities, equal to those of officers;

   d) provides the observer adequate space on the bridge or pilot house to perform his/her tasks, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer tasks;

**Duties of the CPCs**

10. Each CPC shall:

   a) require its vessels, when fishing for ICCAT species, to carry a scientific observer in accordance with the provisions of this recommendation;

   b) oversee the safety of its observers;

   c) encourage, where feasible and appropriate, their scientific institute or domestic authority to enter into agreements with the scientific institutes or domestic authorities of other CPCs for the exchange of observer reports and observer data between them;

   d) provide in its Annual Report for use by the Commission and the SCRS, specific information on the implementation of this recommendation, which shall include:

   i. details on the structure and design of their scientific observer programs, including, *inter alia*:

   - the target level of observer coverage by fishery and gear type as well as how measured;
   - data required to be collected;
   - data collection and handling protocols in place;
- information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the CPC's target level of observer coverage;
- observer training requirements; and
- observer qualification requirements;

ii. the number of vessels monitored, the coverage level achieved by fishery and gear type, and details on how those coverage levels were calculated;

e) following the initial submission of the information required under paragraph 10(d)(i), report changes to the structure and/or design of its observer programs in its Annual Reports only when such changes occur. CPCs shall continue to report the information required pursuant to paragraph 10(d)(ii) to the Commission annually.

f) each year, using the designated electronic formats that are developed by the SCRS, report to the SCRS information collected through domestic observer programs for use by the Commission, in particular for stock assessment and other scientific purposes, in line with procedures in place for other data reporting requirements and consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.

g) ensure implementation of robust data collection protocols by its observers, when carrying out their tasks referred to in paragraph 7, including, as necessary and appropriate, the use of photography.

**Duties of the Executive Secretary**

11. The Executive Secretary facilitates access by SCRS and the Commission to relevant data and information submitted pursuant to this recommendation;

**Duties of the SCRS**

12. The SCRS shall:

   a) develop, as needed and appropriate, an observer working manual for voluntary use by CPCs in their domestic observer programs, that includes model data collection forms and standardized data collection procedures, taking into account observer manuals and related materials that may already exist through other sources, including CPCs, regional and sub-regional bodies, and other organizations;

   b) develop fisheries specific guidelines for electronic monitoring systems;

   c) provide the Commission with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to this recommendation and any relevant associated findings;

   d) make recommendations, as necessary and appropriate, on how to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs in order to meet the data needs of the Commission, including possible revisions to this Recommendation and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards and protocols by CPCs.

**Electronic Monitoring Systems**

13. Where they have been determined by SCRS to be effective in a particular fishery, electronic monitoring systems may be installed on board fishing vessels to complement or, pending SCRS advice and a Commission decision, to replace the human observer on board.

14. CPCs should consider any applicable guidelines that are endorsed by SCRS on the use of electronic monitoring systems.

15. CPCs are encouraged to report to the SCRS their experiences in the use of electronic monitoring systems in their ICCAT fisheries to complement human observer programs. CPCs who have not yet implemented such systems are encouraged to explore their use and report their findings to the SCRS.
Support to Developing States

16. Developing States shall report to the Commission on their special requirements in the implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation. The Commission shall take due regard of these special requirements.

17. Available ICCAT funds will be used to support the implementation of scientific observer programs in developing States, notably the training of observers.

Final provisions

18. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2019 annual meeting and consider revising it, in particular, in the light of information provided by CPCs and of SCRS recommendations.

19. Recommendation [10-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.
TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transhipment activities on tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, in particular by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to ensure collection of catch data from such LSPLVs to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

1. All at-sea transhipment operations:
   a) within the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species, and
   b) outside the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, are prohibited, except that large scale pelagic longline vessels, defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall, may conduct at-sea transhipment under the program established in Section 3 below. All other transhipments must take place in port.

2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in Appendix 3, when transhipping tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in port.

3. This Recommendation does not apply to harpoon vessels engaged in the transhipment of fresh swordfish\(^1\) at sea.

4. This Recommendation does not apply to transhipments outside the Convention area where such transhipment is subject to a comparable monitoring program established by another regional fisheries management organization.

5. This Recommendation is without prejudice to additional requirements applicable to transhipment at sea or in port in other ICCAT recommendations.

\(^1\) For the purpose of this Recommendation, “fresh swordfish” means swordfish that are alive, whole or gutted / dressed but not further processed or frozen.
SECTION 2. RECORD OF CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

6. Transhipment of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized with regard to carrier vessels authorized in accordance with this Recommendation.

7. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area shall be established. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in transhipment operations.

8. In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record List of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transhipments in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number (if any)
- IMO number
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Type of transhipment authorised (i.e., in port and/or at sea)
- Time period authorised for transhipping

9. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.

10. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels and take measures to ensure publicity of the Record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.

11. Carrier vessels authorized for transhipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including 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], or any successor recommendation, including any future revisions thereto.

SECTION 3. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA

12. At sea transhipment by LSPLVs for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Section, in Section 4, and Appendix 1 and 2 below.

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) authorized to tranship at sea

13. Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to tranship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to tranship at sea.
This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number
- Time period authorized for transhipping at sea
- Flag(s), name(s) and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs

Upon receipt of the lists of LSPLVs authorized to tranship at sea, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels the list of LSPLVs authorized to operate with its carrier vessels.

Coastal State authorization

14. Transhipments by LSPLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC are subject to prior authorization from that CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of coastal State prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSPLVs flying their flag comply with the provisions of this Section:

Flag CPC authorization

15. LSPLVs are not authorized to tranship at sea unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested.

Notification obligations

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs):

16. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 14 and 15 above, the master and/or owner of the LSPLV must notify the following information to its flag CPC authorities, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transhipment:

- the name of the LSPLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transhipments in the ICCAT area, and the product to be transhipped, by species, where known, and, if possible, by stock,
- the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped,
- the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped,
- the date and location of transhipment,
- the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.

The LSPLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC not later than 15 days after the transhipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels in accordance with the format set out in Appendix 1.

Receiving carrier vessel:

17. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transhipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSPLV, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transhipment in the ICCAT area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transhipment.

18. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transhipment in the ICCAT Convention area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing is to take place.
**ICCAT Regional Observer Program**

19. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transhipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program specified in Appendix 2. The ICCAT observer shall observe the adherence to this Recommendation, and, notably, that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transhipment declaration and, as feasible, as recorded in the fishing vessel logbook.

20. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transhipping at sea in the ICCAT Convention area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of force majeure duly notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

**SECTION 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

21. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Catch and Statistical Document Programs:

   a) In validating the Catch or Statistical Documents, flag CPCs of LSPLVs shall ensure that transhipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSPLV.

   b) The flag CPC of LSPLVs shall validate the Catch or Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transhipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Program.

   c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Catch or Statistical Document Programs caught by LSPLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the area or territory of a CPC, be accompanied by catch or statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transhipment declaration.

22. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transhipments shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:

   - The quantities of tuna and tuna-like catches by species (and, if possible, by stock) transhipped during the previous year.
   - The quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, transhipped during the previous year.
   - The list of the LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year.
   - A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transhipment from their LSPLVs.

   These reports shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration. The Secretariat shall post these reports to a password protected website.

23. All tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with those species landed in or imported into the area or territory of CPCs, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transhipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

24. The Flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transhipments, and the coastal CPC, where applicable, shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Recommendation to determine consistency between the reported catches, transhipments, and landings of each vessel, including in cooperation with the landing State as necessary. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

25. At its request, and subject to ICCAT confidentiality requirements, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) shall have access to the data collected under this Recommendation.
26. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall, inter alia, review compliance with this Recommendation.

27. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transhipment* [Rec. 12-06].
### Transhipment Declaration

#### Carrier vessel
- Vessel Name and radio call sign:
- Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:
- Flag State authorization number:
- Domestic Registration Number:
- ICCAT Record Number:
- IMO Number:

#### Fishing vessel
- Vessel Name and radio call sign:
- Flag CPC:
- Flag CPC authorization number:
- Domestic Registration Number:
- ICCAT Record Number, if applicable:
- IMO Number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agent’s name:</th>
<th>Fishing vessel Master’s name:</th>
<th>Carrier vessel Master’s name:</th>
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#### Transhipment
- Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: ___ kilograms

#### LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (by stock,* if applicable)</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Type of Product</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT</td>
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ICCAT Observer signature and date (if transhipment at sea):

1 Type of Product should be indicated as Round (RD), Gilled and Gutted (GG), Dressed (DR), Fillet (FL), Steak (ST), Other (OT) (describe the type of product).
2 A list of species by stock, with their geographic delineations, is included on the back of this form. Please provide as much detail as possible.
3 Atlantic, Mediterranean, Pacific, Indian.
4 If stock level information is not available, please provide explanation.
Appendix 2

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transhipments in the ICCAT area and which transship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.

2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transhipments in the ICCAT area from LSPLVs flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT observer program.

3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure observers are properly equipped to perform their duties.

Designation of the observers

4. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
   - demonstrated ability to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear with a strong preference given to those with experience as observers on pelagic longline vessels;
   - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures;
   - the ability to observe and record accurately;
   - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

Obligations of the observer

5. Observers shall:
   a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
   b) to the extent possible, not be nationals or citizens of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
   c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 6 below;
   d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
   e) not be a crew member of the LSPLV or the carrier vessel or an employee of the LSPLV or carrier vessel company.

6. The observer shall monitor the LSPLVs and carrier vessel’s adherence to the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. The observers’ tasks shall be, in particular, to:

6.1 Visit the LSPLV intending to tranship to a carrier vessel, taking into account the safety concerns reflected in point 10 of this Appendix, and before the transshipment takes place, to:
   a) Check the validity of the fishing vessel’s authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with those species in the Convention area;
   b) Inspect the fishing vessel’s prior authorizations to tranship at sea from the flag CPC and, if appropriate, the coastal State;
   c) Check and record the total quantity of catch on board by species and, if possible, by stock, and the quantities to be transhipped to the carrier vessel;
   d) Check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook and verify entries, if possible;
   e) Verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check the documentation on such transfers;
   f) In the case of indication that there are any violations involving the LSPLV, immediately report the violation(s) to the master of the carrier vessel (taking due regard of any safety considerations) and to the observer program implementing company, who shall promptly forward it to the flag CPC authorities of the LSPLV; and
   g) Record the results of these duties on the LSPLV in the observer’s report.

6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:
   a) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
   b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
c) observe and estimate quantities of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped by species, if known, and, if possible, by stock;
d) the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known;
e) verify and record the name of the LSPLV concerned and its ICCAT record number;
f) verify the data contained in the transhipment declaration, including through comparison with the LSPLV logbook, where possible;
g) certify the data contained in the transhipment declaration;
h) countersign the transhipment declaration; and
i) observe and estimate quantities of product by species when offloaded in the port where the observer is disembarked to verify consistency with quantities received during at sea transhipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:
   a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel’s transhipping activities;
   b) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with the observer’s duties and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
   c) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
   d) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

7. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSPLV and of the LSPLV owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.

8. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State and, where relevant, the coastal State, which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.

9. 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 point 10 of this program.

Responsibilities of the Flag States of carrier vessels

10. The conditions associated with implementation of the regional observer program vis à vis the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains include the following, notably:

   a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel, pertinent documentation, 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 point 6:
      i) satellite navigation equipment;
      ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
      iii) electronic means of communication; and
      iv) scale used for weighing transhipped product.
   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;
e) Observers shall be allowed to determine the most advantageous location and method for viewing transhipment operations and estimating species/stocks and quantities transhipped. In this regard, the master of the carrier vessel, giving due regard to safety and practical concerns, shall accommodate the needs of the observer in this regard, including, upon request, temporarily placing product on the carrier vessel deck for inspection by the observer and providing adequate time for the observer to carry out his/her duties. Observations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes interference and avoids compromising the quality of the products transhipped.

f) In light of the provisions of point 11, the master of the carrier vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels should weather and other conditions permit such an exchange; and

g) The flag States shall ensure that captains, 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.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the flag CPC of the LSPLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports (covering the information and activities of both the fishing and carrier vessels) to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Responsibilities of LSPLVs during transhipments

11. Observers shall be allowed to visit the LSPLV, if weather and other conditions permit, and shall be granted access to personnel, all pertinent documentation, VMS and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in point 6 in this Appendix. The master of the LSPLV shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and LSPLV. Should conditions present an unacceptable risk to the welfare of the observer such that a visit to the LSPLV is not feasible prior to the start of transhipment operations, such operations may still be carried out.

Observer fees

12. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSPLVs wishing to engage in transhipment operations. 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.

13. No LSPLV may participate in the at-sea transhipment program unless the fees, as required under point 12, are paid.

Information sharing

14. To facilitate information sharing and, to the extent possible, harmonization of at sea transhipment programs across relevant regional fisheries management organizations, all training materials, including observer manuals, and data collection forms developed and used to support implementation of ICCAT's at sea transhipment regional observer program shall be posted on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Identification Guides

15. The SCRS shall work with the ICCAT Secretariat and others as appropriate to develop new or improve existing identification guides for frozen tuna and tuna-like species. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that these identification guides are made broadly available to CPCs and other interested parties, including to ICCAT regional observers prior to deployment and to other regional fisheries management organizations running similar at sea transhipment observer programs.
Appendix 3

In-Port Transhipment

1. In the exercise of their authority over ports located in areas under their jurisdiction, CPCs may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with domestic and international law.

2. Pursuant to Section 1 of this Recommendation, transhipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species from or in the Convention area may only be undertaken in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 12-07] and the following procedures:

Notification obligations

3. Catching fishing vessel

3.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transhipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify to the Port State authorities the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transhipment.

3.2 The captain of a fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transhipment, inform its flag CPC of the following:

- the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped;
- the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped;
- the date and place of the transhipment;
- the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel; and
- the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.

3.3 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC the ICCAT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in Appendix 1 not later than 15 days after the transhipment.

4. Receiving fishing vessel

4.1 Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transhipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transhipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.

4.2 The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, at least 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transhipment declaration to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

Port and Landing State Cooperation

5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above points shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Appendix, including in cooperation with the flag CPC of the fishing vessel as necessary, to determine consistency between the reported catches, transhipments, and landings of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

Reporting

6. Each flag CPC of the fishing vessel shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transhipments by its vessels.
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND ICCAT REPORTING DEADLINES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT COMPLIANCE PROCESS

RECOGNIZING the substantial amount of information that must be reviewed and analyzed to prepare for meetings of the Compliance Committee; and

NOTING that an earlier submission date of the Annual Report Part II and other reports that contain information relevant to assessing CPC compliance will afford a more thorough review of this information;

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

1. The deadline in paragraph 1 of Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex [Rec. 11-11], shall be amended to 15 August (Compliance Reporting Tables and associated forms, currently due 15 September).

2. Deadlines in the following ICCAT instruments shall be amended to 1 October, as follows:

   (a) Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports [Ref. 12-13], paragraph 2, last sentence (complete Annual Report, comprising Part I and Part II, currently due 16 October);

   (b) 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], paragraph 101 (report on implementation of 14-04, currently due 15 October);

3. The Commission shall review this Recommendation at the 2018 meeting of the Commission to consider further modifying the deadline for the Compliance Reporting Tables and, as appropriate, other deadlines relevant to the Compliance Committee’s work.
RECOGNIZING that compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures is critical to the success of the Commission;

RECALLING the 2011 Commission adoption of Recommendation 11-24, which amended the mandate and Terms of Reference of the Compliance Committee (COC) and required the COC to develop and make recommendations to the Commission to address issues of non-compliance or lack of cooperation with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECOGNIZING that non-compliance should be addressed in a concrete, and transparent, non-discriminatory way, taking into account the need to remain flexible to address the unique circumstances of individual CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that not all non-compliance is of the same level of severity and impact on the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures or the work of the Commission; and

COGNIZANT of the need to assist in providing a consistent, fair, and transparent approach for considering and applying appropriate actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures pursuant to the requirements of Recommendation 06-13 and other relevant ICCAT instruments;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

When determining non-compliance and appropriate actions to address non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, the following guidelines for an ICCAT schedule of actions will be applied:

Step 1: Determination of category of non-compliance(s)

Primary areas of focus should include:

Category A: Conservation and/or Management, including:
- Failure to limit catches/landings to agreed limits
- Failure to restrict fleet size or other capacity measures to agreed limits
- Failure to implement time/area closures
- Failure to implement minimum size restrictions
- Failure to implement gear restrictions/limitations

Category B: Reporting requirements, including:
- Failure to report or delay in reporting statistical and other required data
- Failure to submit or delay in submitting reports

Category C: Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) measures, including:
- Failure to implement MCS measures, including, *inter alia*, catch documentation schemes/statistical document programs, observer programs, transhipment controls, and VMS requirements
- Failure to exercise port CPC controls, including port inspection requirements
- Failure to exercise flag CPC controls
Step 2: Determination of the severity of non-compliance(s)

Non-compliance can range from minor to significant. Highest priority should be given to determining and addressing significant non-compliance, although responsive action may also be warranted in other cases.

**Minor non-compliance:** These failures are first time or infrequent and do not significantly impact the work of the Commission or SGRS or diminish effectiveness of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures. In most of these cases, the only necessary action would be to request the relevant CPC to rectify the situation and report back to the Compliance Committee on actions taken in this regard at the subsequent annual meeting of the Commission. In general, the preferred method for making such requests and tracking the issue would be through the COC meeting report, though the COC may, depending on the circumstances, recommend sending a Letter of Concern regarding their non-compliance to the CPC(s) in question.

**Significant non-compliance:** These non-compliance issues reflect a CPC’s systematic disregard of ICCAT regulations or infrequent (and even first time) violations that individually or collectively significantly impact the objectives of the Commission or SGRS or diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures. These non-compliance issues could include frequent non-reporting or insufficient reporting that impacts the COC’s ability to evaluate the compliance of a CPC effectively. Failures of this nature meet the threshold for identification under the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Trade Measures [Rec. 06-13].

To facilitate CPCs’ comprehensive understanding of what constitutes minor or significant non-compliance in the context of existing Recommendations, the COC will develop a reference document, including a simple summary or table that lists the level of severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions, understanding that mitigating and aggravating considerations will also be taken into account as specified above.

**Mitigating and aggravating considerations:** Both mitigating and aggravating considerations, as indicated below, should be taken into account when determining the significance of non-compliance:

- **Mitigating considerations** include, *inter alia:* (1) the extent to which available capacity building and assistance programs have been used by a CPC to improve its ability to meet its ICCAT obligations and (2) any actions taken by the CPC to address its non-compliance or by a third party CPC in response to the non-compliance of another CPC’s vessel.

- **Aggravating considerations** include, *inter alia:* (1) non-compliance that is repeated, frequent, numerous, and/or severe in degree, scope, and/or effect, individually or cumulatively; and (2) lack of effective corrective action by the flag CPC or third party CPC (if appropriate).

Step 3: Application of actions to address compliance failures, where warranted

Upon a determination that non-compliance has occurred pursuant to Step 1 and that further action by ICCAT, potentially including identification under Rec. 06-13, is warranted pursuant to Step 2, actions should be taken or required in one or more of the following categories: enhanced reporting requirements, restrictions on fishing activities, additional MCS requirements, and/or, as a last resort, trade restrictive measures. In that regard, a non-exhaustive, non-prioritized list of actions that could be taken or required by type of non-compliance as follows:

**Category A: Non-compliance involving conservation and/or management:**

**Required/Automatic Actions Pursuant to Binding ICCAT Recommendations:**

- In the case of binding quota/catch limit overharvest, 100% payback as specified in Rec. 00-14 and other relevant ICCAT recommendations.
Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent catch reporting
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Reduction in quota allocation(s)
  - Additional quota/catch limit reductions
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Enhanced reporting requirements
  - Limitations on at sea transshipment
  - Increased port sampling and/or inspection
  - Increased observer requirements
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Individual vessel quota requirements
  - Bycatch retention limit requirements
  - Size class limitations
  - Fleet capacity limits or reductions
  - Time and/or area restrictions
  - Gear restrictions or requirements
- Trade restrictive measures

**Category B: Non-compliance involving reporting requirements:**

**Required/Automatic Actions Pursuant to Binding ICCAT Recommendations:**

In the case of Task 1 data, application of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of Non Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 11-15]

Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent reporting
  - Submission of a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Increased observer coverage requirements for data collection
  - Increased port sampling requirements
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including
  - Allocation or quota/catch limit reductions
  - Limitations/reductions in fleet capacity levels
  - Increased port inspection
  - Limitations on or Loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or conduct at sea transshipment
- Trade restrictive measures

**Category C: Non-compliance involving MCS measures, including:**

Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent reporting
  - Submission of a performance improvement plan with required reporting
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Increased observer coverage requirements, possibly including use of ICCAT observers,
  - Increased port controls, such as more frequent port calls, expanded inspection requirements, and/or designation of authorized ports
  - Limitations on or prohibition of at sea transshipment
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Allocation or quota/catch limit reductions
  - Limitations/reductions in fleet capacity levels
  - Restrictions on posting vessels to the authorized vessel list
  - Placement of vessels on the IUU vessel list
  - Requirement to specify individual vessel quotas
- Trade restrictive measures
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CLARIFY AND SUPPLEMENT THE PROCESS FOR SEEKING CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO ICCAT RECOMMENDATION 14-08

RECOGNIZING the role of the port State and the importance of port inspections in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the port inspection obligations established in Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 12-07];

RECALLING the provisions of Recommendation 12-07 that recognize the special requirements of developing CPCs in implementing ICCAT’s port inspection minimum standards and calling on CPCs to provide assistance to such developing CPCs to ensure effective implementation of those minimum standards;

FURTHER RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 14-08];

DESERING to enhance the process for identifying and evaluating port inspection capacity building needs and providing assistance to ensure the Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCS Fund) established in Recommendation 14-08 is utilized as effectively as possible;

AWARE that FAO has identified important considerations and objectives related to port inspection capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the utility of taking advantage of existing training materials and initiatives for port inspection capacity building wherever possible;

EMPHASIZING the value of regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordinated approaches to maximize standardization of port inspection procedures and enhance port inspection capacity among developing CPCs;

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

A Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance is established with the following Terms of Reference:

1. Identify state-of-the-art needs assessment tools, training materials, and programmes related to port inspection. Sources may include CPCs, other RFMOs, the FAO, and other relevant organizations.

2. As appropriate, adapt training materials and programmes to reflect specific requirements of the ICCAT port inspection scheme, including the specific obligations of port State CPCs and the operational training needs of relevant personnel.

3. Evaluate and, if possible, prioritize applications for port inspection capacity building assistance submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 14-08. To facilitate this work, the Expert Group will:

   a) Develop one or more forms (with instructions) to help developing CPCs self-assess their port inspection capacity building needs and apply for assistance from ICCAT to address any identified needs, as appropriate. The Secretariat shall circulate the form(s) and instructions to all CPCs as soon as available and shall also post the form(s) and instructions on the public portion of the ICCAT website.
b) Review any other relevant information that might indicate a need for port inspection capacity building assistance, as compiled by the Secretariat and/or available from other sources.

c) As appropriate, engage with developing CPCs regarding their port inspection capacity building needs, including exploring possible approaches for addressing those needs.

d) Consider information on trainings or other capacity building assistance received by a developing CPC that was or will be provided outside of ICCAT’s capacity building efforts. As required by the Expert Group, the Secretariat shall compile relevant information to support this task.

4. Identify CPCs with existing capacity building programmes that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs, and coordinate with the Secretariat to facilitate information exchange among these CPCs. Further, evaluate the potential to collaborate with the FAO in providing port inspection capacity building assistance in ICCAT through the FAO regional workshops related to implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement. In addition, consider if opportunities exist to cooperate with other governments or organizations on port inspection capacity building efforts.

5. Based on the work carried out under paragraphs 3 and 4 above, advise the Commission on the level and type of assistance that is needed, highlighting whether or not ICCAT funding would be required, to facilitate Commission decisions on the allocation of resources into and expenditures from the MCS Fund established in Recommendation 14-08.

6. Consider the effectiveness of the process and procedures for providing technical and capacity building assistance to developing CPCs with respect to the implementation of Recommendation 12-07 and, where relevant, advise the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG) on ways to improve that effectiveness, including through the identification of difficulties that may be unrelated to a lack of capacity, such as unclear port inspection scheme requirements.

7. The Expert Group will meet in 2017 to begin its work, preferably in conjunction with a meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group or other appropriate intersessional ICCAT meeting. In addition, the Expert Group should seek to advance issues electronically to the extent possible.

8. At its first meeting, the Expert Group will elect a Chair from among its members. All CPCs with an interest in port inspection capacity building are encouraged to provide an expert to participate in the Group. The Expert Group will consist of no more than one participant from each CPC, participating as experts in port inspection and/or developing CPC needs, and not representing the interests of their respective CPCs. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide support and assistance as needed to ensure that the Expert Group can carry out these terms of reference as efficiently and effectively as possible.
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has adopted a significant number of measures that require CPCs to submit information in various formats and under different schedules;

RECOGNIZING that the work of ICCAT benefits from timely and transparent information sharing;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits, to the Secretariat and ICCAT members, of rapid communication with regard to the processing, management, and distribution of information;

NOTING the implementation of electronic systems will facilitate reporting, which should help address reporting delays, reporting in the wrong format, and incomplete reporting experienced by ICCAT under its current reporting process;

DESIRING to find effective ways to reduce the workload on the Secretariat and enhance the effective functioning of ICCAT, including the Compliance Committee;

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

1. An online reporting system shall be developed and maintained at the ICCAT Secretariat covering ICCAT reporting requirements, with an initial focus on elements of the required CPC Annual Reports.

2. An Online Reporting Technology Working Group is established, in collaboration with the ICCAT Secretariat, to develop the plan for the online reporting system, based on the elements presented in Annex 1. The Working Group should specify what information the system will collect, the format and structure of the user interface, and the underlying technical specifications. In developing these elements, the Working Group should include a cost-benefit analysis of options for the development and maintenance of this system, with a priority on creating a simple, user-friendly system.

3. In carrying out the work specified in paragraph 2 above, the Working Group will determine which electronic reporting elements need to be undertaken by outsourced technical services and which can be developed by the Secretariat, based on experience and management of other existing systems, including open source solutions based on international UN/CEFACT standards, and taking into account information from other regional fisheries management organizations considering implementation of such systems.

4. This Working Group shall begin its work in 2017 with a completion goal of 2019. The Working Group will provide annual interim reports to the Commission on the progress of its work, including presenting its proposal for the content and format of the online reporting system to the Commission for its consideration in order to inform the development of the technical specifications referred to in paragraph 2.

5. Any interested CPCs are invited to participate and shall notify the Secretariat of the name of their Working Group participant by 15 January 2017. Participants identified should have knowledge and experience in the development and use of electronic, web-based reporting tools. The Working Group will select a chair from among its membership.

6. Once the online reporting system is established, training programs shall be developed and implemented to the extent possible through existing bilateral or broader capacity building and technical assistance programs, to ensure that CPCs utilize the system for a more efficient and effective reporting.
CONCEPT NOTE ON AN ICCAT ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

Purpose and Need

ICCAT has adopted a significant number of measures that require CPCs to submit data and reports in various formats and under different schedules. This information is typically submitted via electronic mail to the general intake address (info@iccat.int). This approach places a significant burden on the Secretariat to evaluate the received information and place it into the appropriate databases for scientific and/or administrative uses. Additionally, there is a heavy burden on the Secretariat to extract the information from numerous electronic files in order to produce required reports and communications in a timely manner, in particular reports to support the work of the Compliance Committee.

An online reporting system on the ICCAT website could provide CPCs with a unified and comprehensive approach to submitting information. The system could assist CPCs by providing a “single window” reporting and management tool for tracking and organizing their respective submissions. The online reporting system could replace the need to separately submit Annual Reports and, to the extent possible, many other periodic submissions to the Secretariat.

Such a system could address the persistent problem of lack of reporting and/or incomplete and late reporting that creates work for the Secretariat and that impedes the effective functioning of the Compliance Committee. Extracts of information made directly by CPCs from the online reporting system could replace several reports and documents now prepared by the Secretariat and help streamline the support to the Compliance Committee and other ICCAT Sub-committees. In addition, these extracts could be available to CPCs at any time and could facilitate advance and more effective preparation for the Compliance Committee or other ICCAT bodies.

Potential Features of a System

The system would be based on a relational database consisting of individual reporting elements. These data elements are, to a large extent, already well defined (see ICCAT Guidelines for submitting data and the list of reporting requirements).

The system would include integrated information on reporting elements indicating origin (ICCAT measure) and purpose, an explanation of the requirement, conditions of its applicability, and an indication of the format and due date.

Filtering criteria would be assigned to each reporting element to enable system queries of a particular focus. For example, filters could be developed to allow selection by:

- Associated Recommendation(s)/Resolution(s)
- Associated Species (BFT, SWO, ALB, etc.)
- Associated Subject (e.g., observers, vessels, MCS)
- Reporting period (year) and applicable due date
- Indication of whether the element contains legacy data or is an active requirement

Mode of Operation

The internet-based self-reporting would be accomplished by authorized CPC officials such as scientific and administrative correspondents. Password protected accounts would be assigned by the Secretariat and the system would have a self-service password reset.

An automated e-mail reminder could be sent to designated CPC officials when a reporting element is due/overdue.

The system would automatically record the CPC account that is used to enter/modify data and record dates of the original entry and most recent change for that reporting element on each annual cycle.
The CPC official would attach formatted files for loading into respective databases by Secretariat (e.g., Task I and Task II data, vessel lists). The Secretariat would record a CPC specific response in cases of incorrect/incomplete submission (system would record date of message).

The Secretariat could post messages for response by involved CPCs (e.g., VMS irregularities, observer PNC reports, inspection reports, submissions under Rec. 08-09) with automated e-mail notification of Secretariat queries to the individual CPCs.

The Secretariat would develop and post an online user manual and help request tool. The Secretariat staff would have administrator role to assist/modify records when needed.

An extract tool would allow CPCs to generate reports (at any time) according to selected filtering criteria (due date, associated species, subject, CPGs indicating not applicable, etc.).

The system would be automatically locked from further changes to that year's reporting requirement during the annual meeting/after the annual meeting/at the end of the calendar year.

**Benefits**

An online reporting system would reduce workload and streamline the process for the Secretariat's compilation of information (direct submissions through online reporting system rather than collate information submitted in emails).

The system would enforce formats and completeness of response (e.g., reporting that a measure is not applicable requires explanation).

Access to structured, specific extracts would facilitate work of the Compliance Committee in assessing status of each CPC prior to meeting; the system would provide a harmonized real time and historical record of reporting status by measure, by subject area, etc.

Such online systems promote transparency through access to extracts (similar to queries on conservation measures and authorized vessel list).

**Costs to Consider**

- Database development and user interface, including new reporting elements when new measures adopted and deactivation of legacy reporting elements when measures replaced/rescinded
- Online user guide and training tools
- Operations and maintenance costs
CONSIDERING that the second performance review of ICCAT was carried out in 2016 by an external panel of experts;

NOTING that the panel of experts highlighted a number of areas where ICCAT made progress since the first performance review;

FURTHER NOTING that the panel of experts also drew up a number of recommendations to improve the performance of ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to follow up on the conclusions of the second performance review with a view to further strengthening ICCAT;

RECALLING that a process to strengthen ICCAT was initiated in 2005 and that in 2006 ICCAT established a Working Group on the future of ICCAT that was tasked, among other things, to follow-up on the recommendations of the first performance review

RECOGNIZING that it would be appropriate to establish a an ad-hoc Working Group to propose recommendations to the Commission for next steps further to the second performance review;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. An ad-hoc Working Group on Performance Review Follow-up is established and will meet intersessionally in 2017 to:

   a) examine the outcomes of the second independent performance review of ICCAT to identify issues raised and recommendations made by the Performance Review Panel that need further consideration; and

   b) propose next steps in light of the examination carried out pursuant to 1(a) in particular draw up a work plan specifying which ICCAT body (Commission, Committee, Working Group or Panel) should consider identified issues and recommendations.

2. The ad-hoc Working Group will report to the Commission at its 2017 Annual meeting on the outcomes of its deliberations.

3. At its 2017 Annual Meeting the Commission will consider the outcomes of ad-hoc Working Group and decide on a work plan.

4. The Working Group will be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat and will be chaired by the ICCAT Chairman.
RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has adopted Recommendation 15-07 for the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR);

ACKNOWLEDGING that in 2016 the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) responded to the Commission's request to provide a 5-year schedule for advancing this work;

CONSIDERING the need for continuing dialogue between scientists and managers;

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

Based on ICCAT Recommendation 14-13, for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries scientists and Managers, a meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) will be held in 2017 and thereafter as appropriate.

Appendix 1

Draft Agenda for 2017

1. SWGSM Terms of Reference (Rec. 14-13) and outcomes of 1st and 2nd SWGSM meetings


3. Status of the development of harvest control rules (HCR) and actions to be taken in 2017 for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-071:

NALB:

• Status update on the testing of candidate HCRs through MSE

BFT:

• Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS
• Consideration of management objectives
• Identification of performance indicators

NSWO:

• Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point
• Identification of performance indicators

Tropical tunas:

• Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point

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1 Chairs of respective Panels together with the SCRS Species Group chairs and the SCRS Chair will work intersessionally to prepare an analysis of how management objectives have been established for priority stocks, which performance indicators have been identified and progress toward MSE/HCR development to date. An example of performance measures and associated statistics is attached (Appendix 2).
• Review of indicative performance indicators adopted in Rec. [16-01], Annex 8

4. Recommendations to the Commission on management objectives, performance indicators and HCR for stocks referred to under point 3

5. Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks

6. Consideration of other stocks for possible addition to the 5-year road map

7. Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

8. Development of a draft road map to implement EBFM, including roles and responsibilities
# Performance Indicators and Associated Statistics

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<td>Minimum over [x] years</td>
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<td>1.2 Mean biomass relative to B\textsubscript{MSY}²</td>
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<td>B, F</td>
<td>Proportion of years that B≥B\textsubscript{MSY} &amp; F≤F\textsubscript{MSY}</td>
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<td>1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant³</td>
<td>B, F</td>
<td>Proportion of years that B≤B\textsubscript{MSY} &amp; F≥F\textsubscript{MSY}</td>
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<td>Proportion of years that B&gt;B\textsubscript{lim}</td>
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<td>Mean over [x] years of (C\textsubscript{n} - C\textsubscript{n-1}) / C\textsubscript{n-1}</td>
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<td>Catch (C)</td>
<td>Variance over [x] years</td>
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<td>TAC</td>
<td>Maximum ratio of change⁷</td>
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</table>

²This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
³This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4
⁴This indicator is useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
⁵Positive and negative changes to be reported separately
⁶Positive and negative changes to be reported separately
RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO FACILITATE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT COMPLIANCE PROCESS

RECOGNIZING the substantial amount of information that must be reviewed and analyzed to prepare for meetings of the Compliance Committee;

DESIRING to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ICCAT’s compliance review process in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner; and

NOTING that the effort to enhance ICCAT’s compliance review process will, necessarily, be iterative in nature and that future review and amendment of the process set forth in this Resolution will be informed by the COC’s experience in its implementation;

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

1. The Secretariat will, in consultation with the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair, compile an inventory of compliance information for each CPC (i.e., Draft Summary Compliance Tables), using all appropriate sources, including reports submitted under Recommendation 08-09. The Draft Summary Compliance Tables will include information on whether CPCs complied with applicable recommendations of the Commission, including reporting obligations. Further, if requested by the COC or COC Chair, the Secretariat will also compile a supplementary inventory of compliance information by species, issue, or topic (i.e., supplementary tables) to facilitate focused compliance review of identified priority matters.

2. The Secretariat will circulate the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables to all CPCs for their review as far in advance of the ICCAT Annual meeting as possible with a target deadline of three weeks before the opening session. CPCs will be invited to give initial, written explanations of inaccuracies or additional information to the Secretariat on their own compliance information as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables at least five days before the start of the first session of the COC. The COC will hold its first session early in the ICCAT Annual Meeting as determined by the Commission Chair or at an appropriate time before the start of the ICCAT Annual Meeting if so decided by the Commission.

3. Prior to the first COC session, the COC Chair will review any written input received from CPCs on the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables, revise the tables as appropriate, and recirculate them to the CPCs. At this time, the COC Chair will also identify and propose priority CPCs or cases, as well as broader issues or areas of focus for the current or a future ICCAT Annual Meeting, as needed and appropriate.

4. To assist with the tasks specified in paragraph 3 above, the COC Chair may convene a Friends of the Chair Review Group before and/or during the ICCAT Annual Meeting. If and when such a Group is to be convened, all CPCs will be notified and invited to provide one representative to participate in its work and interested CPCs should ensure their representative has expertise in Commission recommendations. To ensure the work of the group is as efficient and effective as possible, the Chair will ensure that the composition of the Group is as small as feasible given the varied fisheries interests of CPCs and reflects the geographical representation of the Commission to the extent possible. Participants will take no active part in discussions of compliance issues pertaining to their CPC during meetings of the Friends of the Chair Review Group. A CPC’s ability to engage in compliance related discussions during COC sessions, however, will not be affected by participation on the Friends of the Chair Review Group. The COC Chair may also invite the Panel, PWG, and SCRS Chairs to participate in the Group, as appropriate.
5. The first COC session should be held early in the annual meeting. Discussions will focus on those priority cases, CPCs, or issues identified pursuant to paragraph 3. Other CPCs, cases, and issues not identified as priorities, will not be discussed, unless a CPC raises a specific matter for discussion. Each CPC will have the opportunity to provide additional information concerning their compliance during this discussion, such as any mitigating circumstances or actions they intend to take to ensure future compliance and, as needed, to allow for questions and discussions.

6. Additionally, once every two years, the COC will hold a special session just prior to the ICCAT Annual Meeting for a CPC by CPC review.

7. After the initial discussion review, the COC Chair will consider any additional information provided under paragraph 5 above or available from other sources, revise and finalize the Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables with assistance from the Secretariat, and, where appropriate, propose actions for addressing issues of non-compliance, taking into account any guidance that may be adopted by the Commission. The COC Chair may seek assistance from the Friends of the Chair Group in completing this task. The Chair will ensure that the Group's deliberations and the Chair's rationale underpinning each proposed action to address issues of non-compliance are clearly documented.

8. After completion of the work specified in paragraph 6, the Chair will have the draft Summary Compliance Tables, any supplementary tables, and the Chair's proposed compliance status and actions to address non-compliance (with documented rationale) circulated to the CPCs for consideration by the COC at a later session held during the ICCAT Annual Meeting. Provided this transparent, well-documented compliance review process has been followed, neither repeated discussion of compliance issues, nor a detailed presentation of each proposed action, should be necessary. Rather, at this stage of the process, substantive COC discussion should be reserved for those cases where there are differences of view on the Chair's proposed action. Once any such differences have been resolved, the COC will forward its recommendations for addressing any issues of non-compliance to the Commission for consideration and appropriate action.
RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT on Pelagic Sargassum [Res. 05-11] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine the available and accessible information and data on the status of pelagic Sargassum and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species;

ALSO RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea [Res. 12-12] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species;

RECOGNISING that a report on the findings of this work was presented to the Commission in 2015;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that, in its 2015 report, the SCRS noted that the Sargasso Sea is an important and unique ecosystem for some ICCAT species, and at the same time it was acknowledged that there are other ecosystems in the Atlantic Ocean that are also important and unique for ICCAT species;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in 2013 the SCRS noted that the basic biological and ecological data provided for the Sargasso Sea offers a useful foundation for adopting this region as a basis for a case study in implementing the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approach within ICCAT;

NOTING that the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks calls for the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment and refers to the need to take ecosystem considerations into account;

RECALLING the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management [Res. 15-11] which called upon the Commission to apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management when making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

1. As part of advancing the work of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management, the SCRS will examine the available information on the trophic ecology of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area.

2. The SCRS will provide an update on the progress of this work in 2018 and report back to the Commission with available findings in 2019, if possible.