

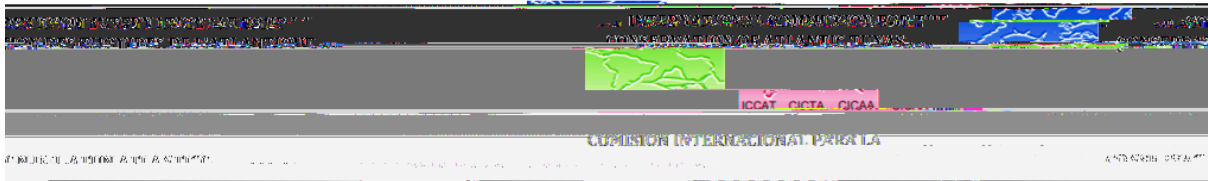
## CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) TO THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

This report is a brief summary of the main recent developments of the Commission in relation to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 75/239

Marked by the pandemic that has suddenly invaded, the year 2020 has dramatically altered the usual course of the work schedule. Therefore, the Commission adjusted to this event by quickly adopting measures that allowed it to pursue its agenda

The Commission convened through correspondence to evaluate the results of the 2020 work plan together with the current status of application of the regulatory measures in force and to establish the conservation and management measures for the future. In 2020, full scientific stock assessments were carried out for four species: bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Atlantic albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*). In total, nine new Recommendations and one Reference document were adopted covering relevant issues on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species conservation and fisheries management.

A wave of cooperation allowed for the rollover of the multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas, which implies a TAC for bigeye tuna of 61,500 t for 2021. The annual TAC for yellowfin will remain at the current level of 110,000. In addition, in order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, the three months prohibition on the use of FADs in 2021 was maintained, as was the reduction on the maximum number of fish aggregating devices (FADs) deployed b

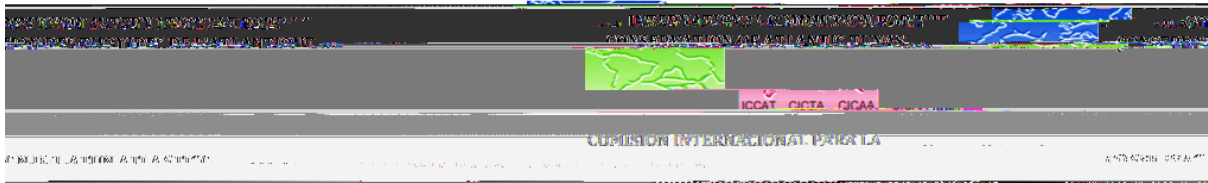


to develop and propose additional measures towards achieving conservation and management objectives for this stock.

The Compliance Committee noted that the trend toward improved compliance was continuing, although as was to be expected, the pandemic caused some difficulties in meeting deadlines, particularly in the early stages. Letters will be issued to 36 Contracting Parties in which a range of compliance deficiencies were detected.

Finally, a new amendment was agreed to the ICCAT Recommendation on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties, together with new Rules of Procedure for the Administration of this special Fund.

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The ratification of the newly adopted Protocol to Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is ongoing with the FAO.

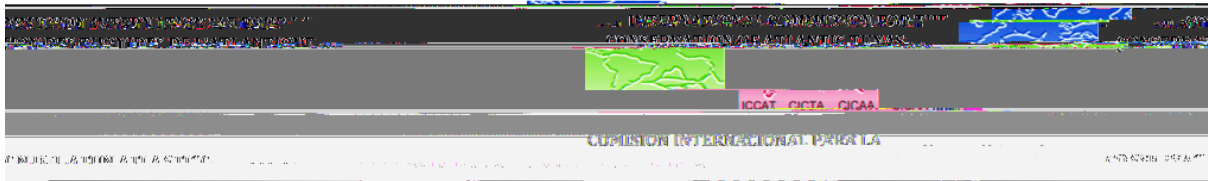
#### Capacity building

Many capacity building activities have been impacted by the COVID-19 and prevented them from taking place as planned.

For capacity building relating to Port Inseciton, unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the needs assessments of the Contracting Parties foreseen could not be completed. Notwithstanding, work on the ICCAT training module continued during the year, and it is expected to resume activities in a virtual format in the last quarter of 2021, with a view to continuing activities into 2022 and beyond.

#### Science

Although the pandemic precluded in-person meetings since March 2020, the ICCAT Scientific Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS) rapidly re-organized workplan for 2020 and rescheduled a number of online meetings of the different Working Group and Subcommittees, 6.2(d)-1e.7(a).1(ove(pT1 -28(l)713.8( p)-1.8(um)-3.1(7)0.8(n)-16.3(t)-1 0.7(of)-106.7(s)-1o.8(um)-3.1(7)21.4(S



that several online scientific workshops have been organised. As a result, useful specific recommendations have been made to coordinate and further standardize the existing search lines, such as electronic tagging, and to develop new ones, such as the **Close** approach based on genetic techniques for stock assessment.

AOTTP: The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP), a 15 millions euros funded programme has come to an end in February 2021 after five years of implementation, with an online symposium to discuss the first results. AOTTP has made nearly met all its targets since it began in 2015. ICCAT AOTTP has evaluated and awarded 6.6(i)-12.5(w)-17.6( on)-16.2(3c 0.11c)6(um)-0