



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR  
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy. Tel : +39 0657056441. [www.faogfcm.org](http://www.faogfcm.org)

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**GFCM Recommendations on Fisheries Management**

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/1**

**ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN FISHERIES EXPLOITING  
DEMERSAL AND DEEPWATER SPECIES**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice and, in particular, paragraph 4, third indent;

*RECALLING* that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks identified in the scientific advice, and to improve the exploitation pattern in the fisheries;

*RE-AFFIRMING* the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary approach to fisheries management therein and, in particular, in relation to the development of new fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

*NOTING* that the selectivity of cod-end mesh sizes currently in use in the various demersal trawl fisheries is not suitable to ensure adequate protection for juveniles of several species, as well as to reduce discarding practices;

*CONSIDERING* also that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

*NOTING* that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs);

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

### **DEMERSAL FISHERIES**

1. The Members of GFCM shall adopt measures aimed at increasing the selectivity of demersal trawl nets, notably by immediate implementation of at least a 40mm mesh size opening for the whole demersal trawl cod-end. Members are invited to explore and implement additional measures in order to improve further the selectivity.

### **DEEPWATER FISHERIES**

2. The Members of the GFCM shall prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawl nets fisheries at depths beyond 1000 m of depth.

### **GENERAL ASPECTS**

3. The Members of GFCM shall notify the Executive Secretary, each year, one month prior to the Plenary Session of the Commission, with a report on the implementation of the management measures adopted.
4. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall evaluate the impact of the implementation of the management measures and shall recommend, if necessary, to the GFCM either possible adjustments or new additional measures.

## **RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/2**

### **CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD OF VESSELS OVER 15 METRES AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marines resources,

*RECALLING* GFCM Resolution 95/2 concerning the agreement to set a minimum length of 15 meters for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas; GFCM Resolution 95/4 concerning the preparation of a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and exchange of information on vessels; and GFCM Resolution 97/2 on activities of non-Contracting Parties, and the decision adopted by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh session to establish a fleet segmentation for vessels operating in the Mediterranean,

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish record of vessels authorized to operate and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

*CONSIDERING* the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean,

*ADOPTS*, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain a GFCM record of fishing vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM Area. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land species covered by the Commission.
2. Each Contracting Party shall submit electronically to the GFCM Executive Secretary possibly by July 1, 2006, the list of its vessels that are authorized to operate in the GFCM Area. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign (if any)
  - Type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Gear used
  - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping
3. Each Contracting Party shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial GFCM record, the GFCM Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the GFCM record at any time such changes occur.
4. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall maintain the GFCM record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.
5. The flag Contracting Party of the vessels on the record shall:
  - a) authorize their vessels to operate in the GFCM Area only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
  - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures;
  - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
  - d) ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
  - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the GFCM record are not engaged in, or associated with, fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the GFCM record in the GFCM Area;
  - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the GFCM record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Contracting Party so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them, and
  - g) keep consistency between the GFCM record and ICCAT record of vessels.

6. The Contracting Parties shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2007 meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag Contracting Party of vessels on the GFCM record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to GFCM conservation and management measures.
7. The Contracting Parties shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of species in the GFCM Area by the vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall which are not entered into the GFCM record.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the GFCM record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment in the GFCM Area.
9.
  - a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall request that the Contracting Party take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing in the GFCM Area.
  - b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
10. The Commission and the Contracting Parties concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fisheries resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.

### **RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/3**

#### **CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources,

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

#### **GFCM/2005/3 (A) RECOMMENDATION [03-04] BY ICCAT RELATING TO MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

*NOTING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in its May 2003 Mediterranean Swordfish assessment has indicated the presence of a stable recruitment pattern and that the current exploitation pattern and level of exploitation are sustainable, as long as the stock does not decline;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS recommended that the current levels of exploitation not be exceeded, under the current exploitation patterns;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS also indicated that the percentage of juveniles in the catches is relatively high and a reduction in their catches would improve the yield and spawning biomass per recruit.

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

1. In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to reduce the mortality of juvenile swordfish in the entire Mediterranean.

2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary technical measures for their longline fisheries in order to ensure compliance with the objective.

3. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall prohibit the use of driftnets for fisheries of large pelagics in the Mediterranean.

**GFCM/2005/3 (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION [04-05] 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**

*NOTING* that the 2002 amendment to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07] established a quota sharing arrangement for the United States, Japan, and Canada only through 2004,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the next assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna was scheduled for 2004 in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08],

*CONSIDERING* the on-going work of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies,

*DESIRING* to align stock management discussions with new scientific advice and, in the meantime, to extend for one year existing management measures which support the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program,

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], which amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006.

2. All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation 98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.

3. The 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies take place in April 2005 in Japan. Its primary objective will be to develop a range of future alternative management approaches which will be submitted to the

Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for its opinion. The Commission will review at its 2005 Meeting the SCRS Report, notably on the feasibility and implications of those alternative management approaches.

4. In 2006, the SCRS will conduct the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years. This provision amends paragraph 6 of Recommendation 02-08.

5. At its 2006 meeting, the Commission will consider the distribution of the total allowable catch among Contracting Parties in the western Atlantic and make any necessary changes for future management periods.

**GFCM/2005/3 (C)**  
**RECOMMENDATION [04-06 ] BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* the conclusions of 6th *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

*CONSIDERING* the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

*DESIRING* to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

*NOTING* the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:

- a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging.
- b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
- c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.

2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

- a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;
- b) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes ;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (= 100 specimens) for every 100 t. of live fish. Size sample will be collected during harvesting<sup>1</sup> at the farm. For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- e) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2 a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.

4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19]).

5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:

- the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
- the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
- the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
- the quantities marketed during the previous year.

6. The CPCs mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.

7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.

8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.

9. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this Recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:

- name of the FFB, register number,
- names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
- location,
- farming capacity (in t)

c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.

d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.

f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:

- (i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
- (ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,
- (iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

10. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or penning period.

11. This recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 03-09].





**GFCM/2005/3 (E)**

**RECOMMENDATION [04-10] BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

*RECALLING* that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

*CONSIDERING* that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, in order to conserve and manage sharks;

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. 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.
4. The ratio of fin -to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 3 shall be reviewed by the SCRS and reported back to the Commission in 2005 for revision, if necessary.
5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation.
6. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
7. In 2005, the SCRS shall review the assessment of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and recommend management alternatives for consideration by the Commission, and reassess blue shark (*Prionaca glauca*) and shortfin mako no later than 2007.
8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.
9. CPCs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.
10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.

11. This recommendation applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

**GFCM/2005/3 (F)**

**RECOMMENDATION [04-12] BY ICCAT TO ADOPT MEASURES CONCERNING SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the need to regulate sport and recreational fishing activities to ensure that these activities do not undermine sustainable exploitation of the stocks, notably the bluefin tuna stock, in the Mediterranean Sea,

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

1. Contracting Parties, Entities, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter named CPCs) shall take the measures necessary to forbid the use within the framework of sport and recreational fishing of towed nets, encircling nets, seine sliding, dredgers, gill nets, trammel net and longline to fish for tuna and tuna-like species, notably bluefin tuna, in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The CPCs shall ensure that catches of tuna and tuna-like species carried out in the Mediterranean Sea from sport and recreational fishing are not marketed.
3. The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.

