

ICCAT: Developments in the field of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea

At its annual meeting in 2014, the ICCAT Commission adopted thirteen binding Recommendations and one non-binding Resolution (full list and texts available on <http://iccat.int/en/RecsRegs.asp>).

In addition to updating multi-annual management and recovery plans for various species tuna and tuna like species and shark species associated with ICCAT fisheries, the main new elements introduced through these Recommendations are as follows:

1. The establishment of a Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund, aimed principally at assisting developing countries implementing Port State measures and other relevant activities (Rec. 14-08).
2. The amendment of the Meeting Participation Fund in order to allow two participants from developing countries to attend dialogues between fisheries scientists and managers, in order to achieve a balanced input between scientists and managers, as well as an amendment to the terms of reference to the is working group (14-14/ 14-13)
3. The establishment of an ad hoc Working Group on Performance Review to draw up the terms of reference of the next review. (Rec. 14-12)
4. The establishment of a Working Group on the Management of Fish Aggregating Devices
5. The establishment of an Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP) for the study and enhanced science relating to main tropical tuna stocks (yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and skipjack tuna) as well as for neritic small tunas of high importance for coastal populations.(Rec. 14-02)
6. Guidelines for the procedures to be followed for the inclusion of vessels on the IUU lists of other tuna RFMOs on the IUU list, to promote transparency and standard treatment. (Res. 14-11)

During the period, ICCAT has continued in its work on the electronic catch document scheme, as well the process to update the ICCAT Convention, to bring it in line with modern fishery instruments.

The ICCAT Commission continues in its efforts to promote capacity building of developing countries, which includes funding for participation in meetings as well as training activities and regional workshops. Several funds have been established for this purpose, some financed through the Working Capital Fund and other funded through voluntary contributions. In 2014, a total of 324,573€ was spent on assistance to twenty seven developing Contracting Parties.