

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR AN  
ICCAT SCHEME FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT**

*RECOGNIZING* that many Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) currently have port inspection schemes in place;

*RECALLING* *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10];

*ALSO RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT further Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from non-Contracting Parties Identified as Having Committed a Serious Infraction* [Rec. 98-11];

*FURTHER RECALLING* the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; and

*DESIRING* to take a step that will strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote implementation of and compliance with conservation and management measures;

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

**Scope**

1. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of CPCs under international law. In particular, nothing in this Recommendation shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Recommendation.

This Recommendation shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

2. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
3. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its port. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the chartering CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
4. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, and except as otherwise provided in this Recommendation, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
5. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 3, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 4.

6. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

#### **Points of Contact**

7. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 22(b) of this Recommendation. It shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
8. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

#### **Designated ports**

9. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall:
  - a) designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation;
  - b) ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Recommendation;
  - c) provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
10. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

#### **Prior notification**

11. Each port CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall require foreign fishing vessels seeking to use its ports for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment to provide, at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:
  - a) Vessel identification (External identification; Name; Flag State; ICCAT Record No., if any; IMO No., if any; and IRCS);
  - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
  - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
  - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
  - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;
  - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

12. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 11, taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall publish the information promptly on the ICCAT website.
13. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 11, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port, the following provisions on port inspection shall apply.

#### **Port inspections**

14. Inspections shall be carried out by a competent authority of the port CPC.
15. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5 % of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
16. In determining which foreign fishing vessel to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, take into account, *inter alia*:
  - a) Whether a vessel has failed to provide complete information as required in paragraph 11;
  - b) requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
  - c) whether clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, including information derived from RFMOs;

#### **Inspection procedure**

17. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. They may also question the Master, crew members, or any other person on the vessel being inspected. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant.
18. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 11 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, to the extent practicable.
19. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report and to contact the flag State. The inspector and the Master shall sign the report and a copy of the report shall be provided to the Master. The Master's signature shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report.
20. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.

21. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authorities of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

#### **Procedure in the event of apparent infringements**

22. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:
  - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
  - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the flag State point of contact and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State;
  - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such infringement. If the infringement is to be referred to the flag State for further action, the port CPC shall promptly provide the evidence collected to the flag State.
23. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the flag State, the relevant coastal State, as applicable, and the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.
24. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 23 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot notify the ICCAT Secretariat this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report [Ref. 12-13] information regarding the status of such investigations.
25. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 11-18, the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag State, and the relevant coastal CPC, as applicable, and notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat, along with its supporting evidence, for the purpose of inclusion of the vessel in the draft IUU list.

#### **Requirements of developing CPCs**

26. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Recommendation. CPCs shall, either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
  - a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this recommendation is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
  - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Recommendation; and
  - c) Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation.

## General provisions

27. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information regarding such programs, including a copy of such agreements or arrangements, should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs [Ref. 12-13].
28. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
29. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.
30. The ICCAT Secretariat shall develop model formats for prior notification reports and inspection reports required under this Recommendation, taking into account forms adopted in other relevant instruments, such as the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and other RFMOs, for consideration at the 2013 Integrated Monitoring Measures meeting and adoption as annexes to this Recommendation at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
31. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2014 Annual Meeting and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness.
32. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.