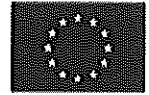




Head of Unit C – Operational Coordination



Vigo, 22 MAR. 2012
EFCA/UC/2012/D-0000285

NOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BLUEFIN TUNA STEERING GROUP

Subject: Report of the Seminar for National Trainers and Experts of Member States involved in the 2012 Bluefin Tuna Joint Deployment Plan

As you are aware, a seminar for national trainers and national experts which will be involved in the 2012 bluefin tuna Joint Deployment Plan was organized by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), in collaboration with the French Administration, from 5th to 6th March 2012 in Paris (France).

Participants from Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and DG MARE attended the seminar.

The main objective of this specific seminar was to train MS national trainers and experts that will be involved in the preparation, development and implementation of national training courses for inspectors in their own countries.

Attached you will find a report of the Seminar.

EFCA would like to take the opportunity to express its gratitude to the French Administration for the excellent organization and the hospitality received by all participants during the seminar.

Pedro Galache

Head of Unit Operational Coordination

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SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL TRAINERS AND EXPERTS OF MEMBER STATES INVOLVED IN THE 2012 BLUEFIN TUNA JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLAN

Date: From 5 to 6 March 2012

Place: Paris - France

Participants: The final list of participants is attached in annex 1.

- o 14 participants from MS (Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain)
- o 3 staff from the DG MARE

Programme: The final programme of the training is attached in annex 2.

Trainers:

- o 4 staff of Oceanis S.R.L.
- o 5 staff from the EFCA

A seminar for national trainers and national experts involved in the 2012 bluefin tuna Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) was organized by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), in collaboration with the French Administration, from 5th to 6th March 2012 in Paris (France). All MS involved in the bluefin tuna JDP were invited to attend the seminar. Representatives from Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain attended the seminar (Annex 1). The EFCA covered the travel expenses of the participants, including the hotel accommodation.

The main objective of this specific seminar is to train MS national trainers and experts that will be involved in the preparation, development and implementation of national training courses for inspectors in their own countries.

Bluefin tuna JDP – Results, conclusion and recommendations of the 2011 campaign and prospective for 2012

A presentation regarding the implementation and the results of the control and inspections activities carried out within the framework of the 2011 bluefin tuna JDP was given by the EFCA.

The operational coordination was assured by the JDP's Technical Joint Deployment Group, which was based at EFCA Headquarters in Vigo (Spain). The deployment of means in time and space was consistent with the 2011 fishing pattern and therefore monitoring and control was considered to be effective.

Concerning the activities implemented in 2011, it should be noted that MS have implemented more days of sea and ashore missions and more hours of aircraft surveillance than initially foreseen. In addition to MS inspection means, a joint EU-inspection vessel (FPV Tyr) was chartered by EFCA. Inspectors from Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, plus one inspector from the EC as well as CFCA coordinators participated to the Tyr's 2011 Mediterranean campaign.

A total of 677 inspections have been performed throughout 403 activity days in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean within the framework of the 2011 bluefin tuna JDP, of which 331 days corresponded to ashore missions and 346 days to sea missions. A total of 59 vessels/operators committed possible non compliances(s), i.e. 8.7% of the total inspections resulted in the drawing up of a possible infringement. The result of the analysis of the typology of the possible non-compliances shows that most of them were related to documentation deficiencies.

Monitoring of bluefin tuna transfers by video camera in the water. Best practices

Oceanis SRL, a consulting specialised in fisheries and maritime issues has been contracted by the EFCA to prepare and conduct the training session on the monitoring of bluefin tuna transfers by video camera. Oceanis SRL is the consulting designated by MRAG and COFREPECHE¹ to implement the training of ICCAT Regional Observers. Mr. Carl Forrester (ICATT Regional Observer's trainer) and Mr. Alfonso Desiderio (underwater photographer and videographer) made the presentation regarding the "Monitoring of bluefin tuna transfers by video camera in the water - best practices".

During the first part a quick overview on the video provisions embodied in the ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 was given.

Subsequently, basic issues concerning photography and video equipment necessary for recording underwater bluefin tuna transfers were presented. Key points to be considered before filming an underwater transfer were addressed.

¹ MRAG and COFREPECHE make up the consortium which will implement the ICCAT Regional Bluefin Tuna Observation Programme 2011/2012.

Examples on the most common ways to manipulate video records were shown and some instruments to detect fraudulent videos were as well analyzed.

The last part of the presentation elaborated on the techniques which are useful to estimate the quantity and the size of the fish, including some editing techniques that can be used to improve the quality of the video records in order to make them exploitable for tuna counting purposes. Some poor quality video records were edited using specific software.

Finally, one trial was carried out in order to show the participants how it works in the reality.

Concerning the minimum equipment needed to be able to watch and/or copy the recorded transfers, it was recommended to have on board the patrol vessel at least the following equipment: a mini DV camera recorder, a computer with a CD/DVD recorder as well as data storage devices such as large capacity external hard disks and pen drives, spare CDs/DVDs and min DV cassettes.

Commission Decision 2011/207/EU. Inspection tasks regarding video recording requirements

The specific inspection tasks regarding video recording requirements based on benchmarks, priorities, methodology and procedures for control as established in the Commission Decision (2011/207/EU) were presented by EFCA.

After a quick description of the main text outlines, specific benchmarks for the full monitoring of transfer and caging operations as in Annex I of the Commission Decision were presented. Particular attention has been devoted to procedures to be followed by officials as foreseen in Annex II.

Particular attention was dedicated to the following Commission Decision general inspection tasks at sea which states that:

Where live fish are being transferred, officials shall seek to identify the means used by the parties involved to estimate the quantities of live bluefin tuna transferred , Officials shall gain access to, and verify the quantities transferred, as observed by the video footage.

This provision clearly allows inspectors to ask fishing vessels' masters for the review of the video records during inspections of transfers and caging operations as well as to review the video records on board the tugs.

General guidelines on possible non compliances to video requirements as foreseen in ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 were discussed. For instance, it was suggested to consider a possible non compliance to Paragraph 79 of ICCAT Rec. 10-04 the fact that the video begins when the door is already open and/or ends with the door still open. In this regard, France confirmed that the obligation to show the opening and the closure of the gate during the transfer video recording has been already included in the French national legislation.

Member States' representatives were also invited to instruct their inspectors to fill in a clear and legible way the inspection reports. The use of an additional statement by the inspectors was recommended when, once the inspection is already over, new elements on a possible non compliance are detected during the review of the videos on board the Patrol Vessel.

It was clarified that the inspector in charge can ask or make himself a copy of the transfer video record. The refusal by the master to allow the inspector to review the video or to make a copy of the video transfer should be considered as an obstruction to the inspection.

The difficulties to estimate the quantities in weight of bluefin tuna from the review of a video-footage were underlined. However, it was suggested to consider as a possible non compliance to article 18.1 of Regulation 302/2009 and paragraphs 65 and 77 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 the fact that the quantity in number estimated by the inspector is significantly different from the quantity in number estimated by the master of the catching vessel and subsequently recorded in the ICCAT transfer declaration and the logbook.

Guidelines for the analysis of video records, including a video tally sheet were prepared and distributed to participants. These guidelines might facilitate both the identification of possible non compliances by the inspectors as well as the estimation of the catches transferred.

ICCAT recommendation 11-20 amending recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation (BCD) programme

The objective of this presentation was to raise the awareness of participants to the differences between ICCAT Recommendation 09-11 and the new ICCAT Recommendation 11-20.

Participants were informed that the EU and other ICCAT CPCs have made the commitment during the ICCAT annual meeting to implement all recommendations related to bluefin tuna before they officially enter into force.

Concerning the new BCD form included in ICCAT Recommendation 11-20, MS confirmed that they will use the new BCD form from the beginning of the fishing campaign with the exception of Spain, which will still use the old form in the cases of catching vessels other than purse seiners. Once ICCAT Recommendation 11-20 enters into force, all Spanish catching vessels and traps will use the new format.

Regarding some technical questions raised by Member States, the European Commission confirmed that Member States will receive a letter clarifying certain implementation issues to be applied during the 2012 campaign.

Practical exercise and presentation of the results

A practical exercise was proposed to the trainees, covering different legal aspects of bluefin tuna transfer operations: tug vessel logbook, transfer obligations and purse seiner logbook.

Trainees were organized in groups to study the case and to write down their findings and proposed actions.

One group presented its results, followed by the other groups for further comments and questions.

Logbook and landing declaration presentation

Further to the adoption in 2011 of the Commission Regulation (EC) N° 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1224/2009, the presentation was dedicated to paper logbook changes and their legal references in this new regulation.

A specific part of the presentation was dedicated to the landing declaration part of the logbook to confirm the understanding on the filling up and to the use of landing data for controlling the tolerance margin of catching figures.

Conclusion

Each trainee received the opportunity to complete a questionnaire to assess the training. At 34%, the 2012 bluefin tuna seminar was considered as an excellent seminar, at 50% as a good seminar, and at 16% an adequate seminar.

Most of the comments of the trainees referred to the importance of the practical exercises and suggested to include practical exercises during future seminars.

However, it should be reminded that the content of the seminar is addressed to national trainers. Therefore participants to these seminars are expected to have a good knowledge of both ICCAT and European Union provisions related to bluefin tuna fisheries.

The organization of a session concerning the monitoring of bluefin tuna transfers by video camera in the water was largely requested by MS during past seminars and bluefin tuna Steering Group Meetings. EFCA identified Oceanis SRL as the most suitable and experienced consulting to prepare and conduct such a session. The presentation was very much appreciated by the participants.

All trainees have received at the end of the training a USB pen drive containing all presentations made during the course as well as regulatory documents (bluefin tuna Syllabus updated to 1/03/2012).

Annex 1 – List of participants

STATE	NAME	SURNAME	E-MAIL
Cyprus	ANDRIANI	Heracleous	aheracleous@dfmr.moa.gov.cy
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Portugal	COELHO	Alexandre	alexandrecoelho@dgpa.min-agricultura.pt
Spain	BOY	Esther	esboycarm@magrama.es
Spain	VAZQUEZ	Ivan	ivazquez@marm.es
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DG MARE	LESKINEN	Jari	jari.leskinen@ec.europa.eu
COFREPECHE	SILVA	Jean-Pierre	
OCEANIS	DESIDERIO	Alfonso	
OCEANIS	FORRESTER	Carl	
OCEANIS	PIGNALOSA	Paolo	

Annex 2 – Programme

5 March 2012

- Welcome to participants and presentation of the training
- Bluefin tuna JDP – Results, conclusion and recommendations of the 2011 campaign and prospective for 2012
- Monitoring of bluefin tuna transfers by video camera in the water. Best practices

6 March 2012

- Commission Decision 2011/207/EU. Inspection tasks regarding video recording requirements
- ICCAT Recommendation 11-20 amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme
- Practical exercises
- Presentation of the results of practical exercises. Discussion
- Recommendations and evaluation