



## **SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT**

(December 2021-May 2022)

**Report of activities developed during the semester**

**Action 1**

**Harvest and Management strategy-FIP tasks and Interaction with ICCAT**

## **Action 1**

### **Harvest and Management strategy-FIP tasks and Interaction with ICCAT (and other fisheries related institutions).**

#### **Main tasks.**

- > New event of “Sustainhook: Longliner’s Sustainability” (the FIPBLUES communication strategy): “Webinar with administrations and the distribution and marketing sector”.
- > Presentation of the campaign and logo of “Tintorera y Pez espada Sostenible de Pesca Gallega” (Sustainable Blue shark and Swordfish from Galician fishing).
- > Attendance to Seafood2030 Virtual Sustainability Forum: Designing a Global Sustainable Seafood System . 01-02 December 2021.
- > Attendance to “Seafood traceability: aligning RFMO CDS to combat IUU fishing”. 09 December 2021.
- > Publication of an article about mako in a Spanish international magazine specialized in fisheries.
- > Interview of FIPBLUES representatives in the TV program “Bos días” of the TVG (Televisión de Galicia; the public Galician Television channel).
- > Attendance to “THE ONE OCEAN SUMMIT. BREST, BRITTANY – FRANCE ”. 09-11 February 2022 (on line).
- > Attendance to the webinar “Introducing the proposed revised MSC Fisheries Standard”. Changes to the MSC standard. Marine Stewardship Council.
- > Attendance to 4th Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14. 6 - 8 April 2022. Online and Geneva, Switzerland.
- > Attendance to the webinar. “Introducing the proposed revised MSC Fisheries Standard” for Spain and Portugal.
- > Attendance to "1st Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Working Group. SCRS. ICCAT" (Virtual meeting, 28.02.2022).
- > Attendance to the webinar on “Implementing the Social Responsibility Assessment (SRA) Tool for FIPs”.
- > Meeting with the responsible of the Spanish MITECO to deal with the situation of mako commerce and the certificate CITES.
- > Attendance/presence in ICCAT’s "2022 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (Including North Atlantic Swordfish MSE). On-line. 21.03.2022-01.04.2022.
- > Attendance/presence in ICCAT’s "Interessional meeting of the Shark Species Group. 2022". 16-18 May 2022.
- > Attendance/presence in ICCAT’s "MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME". 4-5 April 2022.

### Activity/task:

New event of “Sustainhook: Longliner’s Sustainability” (the FIPBLUES communication strategy): “Webinar with administrations and the distribution and marketing sector”

### Subject & Aim

“SUSTAINHOOK” is an ambitious communication program to disseminate the work carried out by FIP BLUES promoters, aiming at communicating to all stakeholders not only the work of the FIP but also health and quality aspects concerning fish consumption, fisheries governance, fishery sustainability, etc. It represents **a key component of the strategy to disseminate the FIP activities** and reach relevant stakeholders related to fisheries management and markets at national and international level.

As part of the communication strategy FIP Blues continued by organizing this second international event in Vigo Port Authorities headquarters. Besides, after the seminar the partners launched the new campaign called “TINTORERA Y PEZ ESPADA SOSTENIBLE de pesca gallega”, which is explained in detail the next sheet.

This mixed webinar was released to a diverse audience of stakeholders (private and public), either present or in streaming emission: public authorities, technical and scientific staff, marketers, NGOs, etc. The event counted with an attendance mixed attendance in situ and online. Attendees ranged from governmental to non-governmental actors, relevant scientists, private companies, etc.



First, it took place the presentation of the event and the intervention of maritime and fisheries affairs public authorities from Galicia, Spain and Portugal (<https://fipblues.com/en/webinar-december-2021>) .

The Webinar was structured into four sections (see attached Agenda Sustainhook\_1 Dec 2021 ): In the first section representatives from the Galician, Spanish and Portuguese sea and environment affairs departments made their respective presentations and participated in the final debate with one section focused exclusively on the presentation of FIP Blues action plan. These blocks included also the participation of representatives/professionals from NGO (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership), experts in nutrition-health from the public national health system and a researcher from the university.

The videos of the event presentations can be reached at <https://fipblues.com/en/webinar-december-2021> and there were also a constant presence in the social media networks.

**Social Networks:**

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1466024602228961284?s=20&t=rMV8i3\\_nXFK9JHg1nnM9gg](https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1466024602228961284?s=20&t=rMV8i3_nXFK9JHg1nnM9gg)

Facebook: [post facebook fip blues](#)

LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fip-blues-0247851bb\\_fip-blues-lanza-la-campa%C3%B1a-de-promoci%C3%B3n-tintorera-activity-6872439183303041024-e2YG?utm\\_source=linkedin\\_share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop\\_web](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fip-blues-0247851bb_fip-blues-lanza-la-campa%C3%B1a-de-promoci%C3%B3n-tintorera-activity-6872439183303041024-e2YG?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web)

## Results/Outcome

- New relevant event organised within the FIP Blues communication strategy.
- Greater spread of FIPBLUES key message of sustainability reaching to more relevant stakeholders (national and international sector authorities as well international fishing entities and NGOs, etc).
- Growing acknowledgment and support from the public authorities of the challenge that the FIP represents.
- Increasing acknowledgment from fish markets as a powerful initiative directly created by the industry and the associated supply chain.

## Participants

- FIP Blues Members and technical team
- Speakers from private and public institutions.
- Attendees, on line and physically.

## Date

01.12.2022

## Documents of proof

-Agenda.

- Link: [https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-68620-seccion-Sector\\_Pesquero](https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-68620-seccion-Sector_Pesquero)

The text above also contains hyperlinks leading to the evidences of the event itself: web, videos, agenda, etc.

### Activity/task:

Presentation of the campaign and logo of “Tintorera y Pez espada Sostenible de Pesca Gallega” (Sustainable Blue shark and Swordfish from Galician fishing).

### Subject & Aim

After the “Webinar with administrations and the distribution and marketing sector” held on 01.12.2021 the new campaign called “TINTORERA Y PEZ ESPADA SOSTENIBLE de pesca gallega” was launched. It constitutes another relevant milestone for FIP BLUES dissemination of responsible consumption of fish (swordfish and blue shark). See links below.

It is a promotional campaign to promote the responsible consumption of both species in the national territory emphasising the sustainability of swordfish and blue shark fishery of the FIPBLUES fleet and Anecteam companies, for which, a specific logo has been created to identify it. It was presented to a diverse audience of stakeholders that was present also in the webinar held before the same

With this campaign the partners wish to express that:

1. Surface longline fishing, a totally selective and environmentally friendly gear.
2. It is a fleet with a long tradition and history in Spain, of special importance in certain coastal regions where the sea-industry fabric is vital for the economy of many families.
3. Blue fish with a high content of fatty acids of high nutritional value, as well as vitamins and minerals essential for a healthy diet.
4. Its flavour and texture, different and unique, are a gastronomic attraction in many areas of the world.

### Results/Outcome

- New campaign on fisheries sustainability linked to responsible consumption launched.
- Specific logo created to promote responsible fish consumption with the sustainability associated to FIPBLUES.
- Spread of the commitment to the fishery sustainability as part of the fish market business.
- Increasing acknowledgment from the related markets.

### Participants

- FIP Blues Members and technical team
- Speakers from private and public institutions.
- Attendees on line and physically.
- Media

### Date

01.12.2022

### Documents of proof

TINTORERA Y PEZ ESPADA SOSTENIBLE de pesca gallega:

[https://fipblues.com/archivos/1263?fbclid=IwAR2G7QuFA4dkiBcYNfPBSzm-JB4\\_rZQ26L5KSeC31O0gja2HSgY9OSLZXYI](https://fipblues.com/archivos/1263?fbclid=IwAR2G7QuFA4dkiBcYNfPBSzm-JB4_rZQ26L5KSeC31O0gja2HSgY9OSLZXYI) (in Englist at <https://fipblues.com/promotion> )

**Social Networks:**

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1466673158363222016?s=20&t=qoedvr2Y8tsQeTGC8e3JJQ>

<https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1471072550046220289?s=20&t=qoedvr2Y8tsQeTGC8e3JJQ>

<https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1470347775086772225?s=20&t=qoedvr2Y8tsQeTGC8e3JJQ>

<https://twitter.com/BluesFip/status/1468535834576048131?s=20&t=qoedvr2Y8tsQeTGC8e3JJQ>

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/dv28yLT8cC/>

LinkedIn:[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fip-blues-0247851bb\\_elsabordelosquesaben-activity-6871792389430771712-cCGw?utm\\_source=linkedin\\_share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop\\_web](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fip-blues-0247851bb_elsabordelosquesaben-activity-6871792389430771712-cCGw?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web)

### **Activity/task:**

Attendance to Seafood2030 Virtual Sustainability Forum: Designing a Global Sustainable Seafood System . 01-02 December 2021

### **Subject & Aim**

Aiming at increasing participation in international forums as well increasing knowledge in relation to current debates on responsible seafood and sustainable fisheries management, which is directly linked to the FIP social implementation.

The two-day event consisted of a series of dialogues assessing the collective impact of IUU, Fair Labour, National Management & International Governance, and Sustainable Financing. The aim is to align efforts into a coherent sustainable seafood system - increasing the collective impact of all stakeholders and the opportunity to bring about real change in the industry.

This event evaluated how well the collective efforts of the sustainable seafood system to address IUU, Fair Labour, National Management & International Governance and Sustainable Finance are being developed and identify ways to improve how to work.

Agenda: <https://seafood2030.vfairs.com/en/>

Day 1: evaluation of sustainable seafood efforts from industry leaders and issue experts.

Day 2: participant's colloquium to provide input and identify strategies to support a more effective support system for a sustainable seafood industry.

### **Results/Outcome**

Attending this type of technical events FIP Blues technical team gains first-hand knowledge about the numerous efforts being made to build sustainable seafood systems and gives useful insights in a number of issues related to the FIP social implementation.

### **Attendees/Participants**

Fish companies managers, fishing industry, UN representative, NGOs

### **Date**

01-02.12.2021

### **Documents of proof**

Attached below: Email, confirmation of attendance and Email thanking participation.

### Activity/task:

Attendance to “Seafood traceability: aligning RFMO CDS to combat IUU fishing”. 09 December 2021

### Subject & Aim

By attending these conferences FIPBLUES aims at increasing participation in international forums as well increasing knowledge in relation to current debates on IUU fishing versus responsible and sustainable fisheries management.

In this event “the EU IUU Fishing Coalition held an online event, with over 120 participants, to launch its new study on aligning Catch Documentation Schemes –CDS- in RFMOs to combat IUU fishing”.

It dealt with the current lack of harmonisation between CDS regimes across RFMOs, as well as their lack of compatibility with two major import regimes (the U.S. system, SIMP, and the EU catch certificate) and at the time highlighted the limitations in the voluntary UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) guidelines for CDS.



### Results/Outcome

Attending this type of technical events FIP Blues technical team gains first-hand knowledge about the numerous efforts being made to build sustainable seafood systems and gives useful insights in a number of issues related to the FIP social implementation.

### Attendees/Participants

NGOs, Governmental representatives from EU, Governmental representatives from other countries

### Date

09.12.2021

### Documents of proof

Annex I. Email, confirmation of attendance and Email thanking participation. Pictures of the event on line.

Event: <http://www.iuuwatch.eu/2021/12/widespread-and-better-aligned-rfmo-catch-documentation-schemes-urgently-needed-to-combat-iuu-fishing/>

### **Activity/task:**

Publication of an article about mako in a Spanish international magazine specialized in fisheries.

### **Subject & Aim**

As part of the dissemination activities of FIP BLUES and also as part of our willing of collaboration and commitment with fisheries sustainability, Emilio Martínez Cadilla (President of Anecteam) published an article in an specialized magazine about the situation of the short fin mako fishery in ICCAT and effect in the fleet: "Measures for all on establishing a fair play ground for all operators of mako at international level".

He deals with the last measure for short fin mako in the North Atlantic and the need for a fair play ground for all operators as the Spanish FIP Blues fleet has complied with all measures either at national, European (EU) and international (ICCAT) to lead the stock to sustainable levels, while it is argued is not the case for all operators in ICCAT waters.

In his opinion, this has resulted in an unjust situation for the fleet compared to other fleets, which apparently have not the same strict measures as the European ones. Obviously, that has an impact at economic, social and environmental level.

In addition, a Emilio Martinez asserted the commitment of the sector with the sustainability of the fishery through the challenging FIP BLUES currently in implementation, which means collaboration with public managers (state, EU, ICCAT) scientist and NGOs, among others, in favour of transparency.

Therefore, a clear, equal and fair play ground for all operators of mako at international level is demanded for the conservation and sustainable use of that species, which, although in small percentage, is part of the catches of the fleet (now limited to the South Atlantic).

### **Results/Outcome**

- An article to add to the communication and dissemination strategy in sector scenes.
- Express the willing of the fleet to comply with the measures but claim for an equal requirement for all operators: support of the responsible role of the fleet and the actors of the supply chain involved.
- Demonstration of transparency as principle and a practice of FIPBLUES.
- Regional, national and international stakeholders learnt a valuable opinion from the industry.

### **Participants**

- Emilio Martínez Cadilla (President of Anecteam) and FIP Blues first representative.

### **Date**

01.01.2022

### **Documents of proof**

- Attached below.
- [https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia\\_impresa-69013-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Pesca](https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia_impresa-69013-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Pesca)

### Activity/task:

Attendance to “THE ONE OCEAN SUMMIT. BREST, BRITTANY – FRANCE ”.  
09-11 February 2022 (on line).

### Subject & Aim

It is an international event organised as part of the “One Planet Summit” which has been dedicated to the protection of oceans. This 3-day high level event was organised in the context of the French presidency of the Council of the European Union, with the support of the United Nations and the World Bank, in the presence of about 30 foreign leaders and international organisations, business leaders and policymakers from the civil society. The One Ocean Summit has defined priorities to translate into actions a shared responsibility on the ocean.

By attending these conferences FIPBLUES the project continues to gather knowledge about the international initiatives focused on the ocean protection, including sustainable fisheries management. In fact, one of the Areas of priority of the event was “preserve the ocean resources through the promotion of sustainable fishing and the fight against illegal fishing, with the ratification of new agreements” ([Brest Commitments for the Oceans](#)).

More detailed information about this summit, presentations, speeches and commitments can be reached at <https://www.oneplanetsummit.fr/en/events-16/one-ocean-summit-221>

As we are part of the EU, CPC in ICCAT, it is worth to highlight the ambitious initiatives presented by the EU Commission to promote a cleaner, healthier and safer ocean, as part of the EU's contribution to the One Ocean Summit and a demonstration of EU's leading role in bringing a comprehensive response to oceans challenges. In fact, President Von der Leyen announced three key initiatives for cooperation to preserve and revive the oceans: a new international coalition to protect biodiversity on high seas, which constitute 95% of the ocean; a major computing project allowing researchers to digitally simulate the world's oceans; and the EU's research mission to restore our ocean and waters by 2030. The EU contribution to the One Ocean Summit can be read in [One Ocean Summit: new steps strengthen EU leadership in protecting the Ocean](#) and [EU protects the Ocean](#).

### Results/Outcome

- First-hand knowledge of the world-wide political agenda, programs and statements in terms of sustainable use of marine resources and fisheries management for the next decades.
- Ideas, “inspiration” for developing new activities to promote the aims and principle of FIPBLUES with other countries. Potential collaborations.

### Attendees/Participants

Representatives of more than 100 countries from all sea basins and representing more than half the world's exclusive economic zones, scientist, companies, NGOs, etc, etc.

### Date

09-11.02.2022

### Documents of proof

Attached below. Email, confirmation of attendance  
Links in the text above.

### Activity/task:

Interview of FIPBLUES representatives in the TV program “Bos días” of the TVG (Televisión de Galicia; the public Galician Television channel).

### Subject & Aim

As part of the communication strategy and the will to explain all the aspects related to the fishery that have an influence in the industry Juana Parada (ORPAGU) and Emilio Martínez (Anecteam) attended an interview in the news program “Bos Días” from the TVG, the main TV channel in Galicia.

Due to the complex situation caused to the industry because of the delay of the MITECO in providing permissions to sell the annual short fin mako –s.f mako- catches (except for north Atlantic) according to CITES criteria the industry claimed for a more resolute and fair decision with that regards. They talked about the prejudice caused to the fleet, the regulated-controlled condition of the fishery, the management and regulations affecting it, the political-administrative level, the compliance of the fleet with all regulations (national, EU, ICCAT), and the need for a fair play ground for all operators, etc.

Therefore, after having analysed the context and exposed their arguments, they claimed for the lead role and commitment with fisheries sustainability of the industry. They highlighted the effort that the fleet is making in order to improve its performance as stated in the FIP action plan.



### Results/Outcome

- A new task implemented as part of the communication strategy.
- Demonstration of transparency publicly exposed.
- The view and the opinion of the industry are spread to a relatively high share of TV audience.
- Transparency is shown as a characteristic of FIPBLUES as principle and a practice.

### Participants

- Emilio Martínez Cadilla (President of Anecteam) and Juana Parada (ORPAGU General Secretary).

### Date

19.02.2022

### Documents of proof

<http://crtvg.es/tvg/a-carta/bos-dias-fds-5529182>

<http://www.crtvg.es/tvg/a-carta/bos-dias-fds-5529182>

From minute 23:07 to 33:00.

### Activity/task:

Attendance to the webinar “Introducing the proposed revised MSC Fisheries Standard”.  
Changes to the MSC standard. Marine Stewardship Council.

### Subject & Aim

MSC organised two webinars to explain the work done and the next steps to change some key criteria of the MSC standard. As FIP is based on the MSC methodology we attended this relevant webinar to inform those changes and how it could affect the implementation of our FIP.

The first Webinar focused on "Introducing the Proposed Revised MSC Fisheries Standard with a focus on preventing shark finning, harvest strategies and evidence requirements" by the Fisheries Standard Director, Ernesto Jardim.

This is a key topic for FIPBLUES as our fleet does not make finning (and besides it is prohibited by law in EU). Therefore, FIPBLUES welcomes that MSC includes now the ban of shark finning, something our fleet has claimed/is claiming for in ICCAT and other arenas to be compulsory in all RFMO as stated in the Action Plan (mainly in Action 2).

The second Webinar presented "Introducing the Proposed Revised MSC Fisheries Standard with a focus on endangered, threatened and protected species, preventing gear loss and ghost fishing, and making our standard more efficient", by Chief Science and Standards Officer, Rohan Currey. Again, that's a relevant topic we are dealing with in Action 2.

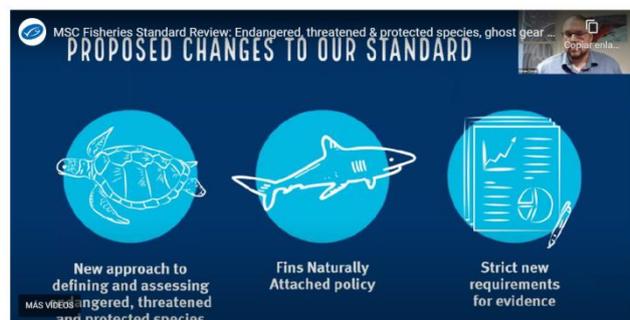
In summary, the objectives of this review are:

- Making the standard more efficient including better scientific understanding and fishery management practices in the Standard.
- To make the Standard clearer for those using it in fishery assessments.
- To make the Standard less complex and remove barriers to fisheries joining and staying in the program.
- To make the Standard more accessible to fisheries in the Global South and make it more applicable to high priority species and ecosystems.
- To improve data collection and evidence-based decision-making.

Full details are given in the [Fisheries Standard Review Terms of Reference](#)

The proposed changes focus on:

- Working with mixed fisheries
- New approach to defining and assessing Endangered, threatened, and protected species
- To ensuring shark finning does not take place in MSC certified fisheries.
- Strict new requirements for evidence
- Minimising fishing impacts on ecosystems and habitats: clearer and more consistent assessment of habitats and ecosystems
- Preventing lost and abandoned fishing gear (ghost fishing)
- Improvements to Risk-based framework



More detailed information about the MSC changes can be accessed here: [Watch our webinars](#)

### **Results/Outcome**

-First-hand knowledge of the relevant changes to come to the MSC standard that will affect in the future to the FIP methodology and the potential requirement of the MSC itself to the fishery.

### **Attendees/Participants**

-FIP Blues technical team

### **Date**

15.02.2022

### **Documents of proof**

Attached below. Email confirmation of attendance  
Links in the text above.

### Activity/task:

Attendance to 4th Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14. 6 - 8 April 2022  
Online and Geneva, Switzerland

### Subject & Aim

Aiming at increasing participation in international forums as well increasing knowledge in relation to current debates on ocean's resources, responsible seafood and sustainable fisheries management, which is directly linked also to the FIP social implementation.

The three-day event [4th Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14](#) addressed "The ocean's resources sustain the livelihoods of about 3 billion people worldwide, the vast majority of whom live in developing countries. But those livelihoods are under threat, as the ocean and its ability to sustain life are in grave danger due to human activities, such as pollution and overfishing. Every year, an estimated 5 to 12 million metric tonnes of plastic flow into the ocean, which represents 95% of our planet's biosphere. And due to overfishing, the percentage of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels fell from 90% in 1990 to less than 66% in 2017. The 4th Oceans Forum, to be held from 6 to 8 April 2022, is a unique platform to identify ways to change course.

It's an opportunity to find solutions for using trade as a tool to protect our ocean and its resources, accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14's trade-related targets".

Among others, there were topics of interest for FIPBlues, like:

- Transparency and implementation mechanisms to support fish subsidies and non-tariff measures (NTMs) reform
- Sustainable and resilient maritime supply chains
- The Maritime Supply Chain Crisis.
- Moving way from unsustainable government support to fisheries An OECD perspective
- Sostenibilidad Social de la Cadena de Valor de la Pesca y la Acuicultura

### Results/Outcome

Attending this type of technical events FIP Blues technical team gains first-hand knowledge about discussions on solutions for using trade as a tool to protect our ocean and its resources, accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14's trade-related targets.

### Speakers

UN representatives, UN-FAO, national governments speakers, EU, private companies, NGOs, etc

### Date

03-06.04.2022

### Documents of proof

Attached below. Email confirmation of attendance

### Activity/task:

Attendance to the webinar. “Introducing the proposed revised MSC Fisheries Standard” for Spain and Portugal

### Subject & Aim

“MSC for Spain and Portugal” organised almost the same event of 15.02.2022 adapted to the Iberian idiosyncrasy to explain those proposed changes to the MSC Fisheries Standard, for Spanish and Portuguese stakeholders. The content and lessons learnt are in line with the previous webinar in English on 15.02.2022. So, the same information sheet applies for this item.

### Results/Outcome

-First-hand knowledge of the relevant changes to come to the MSC standard that will affect in the future to the FIP methodology and the potential requirement of the MSC itself to the fishery.

### Attendees/Participants

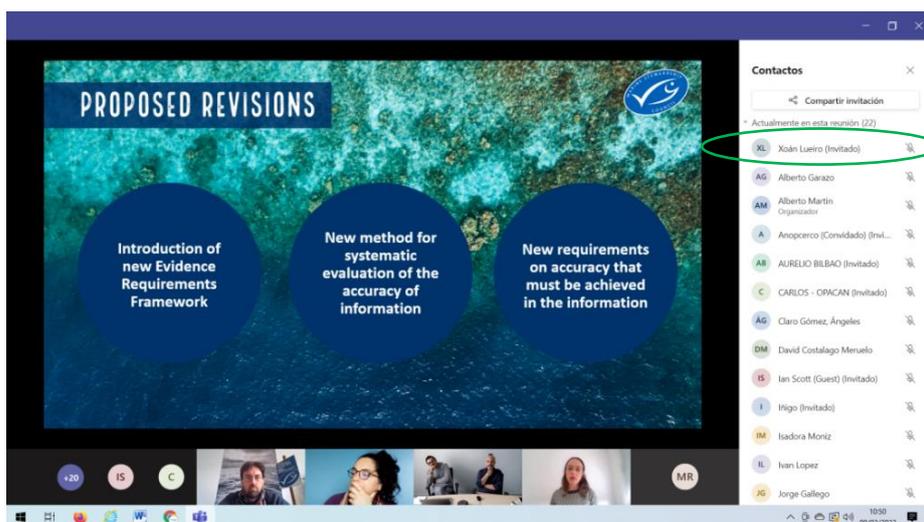
-FIP Blues technical team

### Date

09.03.2022

### Documents of proof

Screenshot of the event:



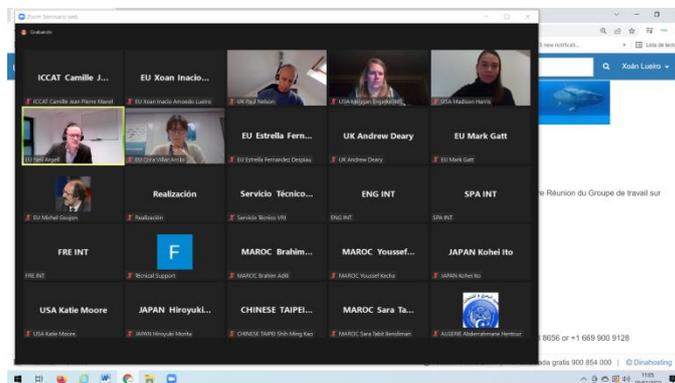
### Activity/task:

Attendance to "1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Working Group. SCRS. ICCAT" (Virtual meeting, 28.02.2022).

### Subject & Aim

As part of Action 1 tasks to increase presence and interaction with ICCAT (SCRS working groups) FIP Blues attended this technical meeting aimed at developing EMS standards. This way FIPBLUES continues to be present in those discussions whose topics are directly linked to the actions we develop in the FIP.

It was the first meeting of this Working Group in order to discuss the technical and administrative basis for EMS after the suggestions that came out from the past 27<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting in 2021 and previous working groups meetings dealing with the topic. However, in 2021 there were no specific Recommendations from the SCRS on longline or other fisheries.



At the present Subgroup main work is focused on:

- Data fields: comparison of what can be obtained with human observers versus EMS (using ST-09 data forms);
- Vessel adaptations/camera location: any adaptations that may be needed for EMS to collect needed data.
- Propose **minimum standards** (mostly focusing on the technical aspects, such as as n<sup>o</sup> and location of cameras, etc)

Main ideas of the discussion:

- EM systems cannot substitute for a human observer so they are likely to be used as a complement rather than a replacement at-sea observer programs. EMS is supplementary to physical observation and never a substitute.
- EM systems need to address the **challenges associated with processing and analyzing very large volumes of data that will result**, which are different to the challenges encountered when dealing with human observers and their data.
- It is possible that future **improvements in artificial intelligence, machine learning/deep learning algorithms**, hardware and software can mitigate some of the current limitations with data collection and analysis
- Integrated EM systems must be able to **meet both national and international requirements to ensure data collection, continuity, veracity and precision** are not compromised and that scientists have the required data to ensure they can continue to provide accurate scientific advice to managers.
- Need for a **separation of scientific vs compliance objectives/data in terms of the EM Systems**, noting that many EM systems to date have been implemented mainly for compliance or mixed purposes.

The Subgroup agreed that for scientific purposes, it is important to assure that EM systems can record and collect needed scientific data (e.g., species ID, sizes, sex on elasmobranchs, discards, etc) and not only compliance data, although they recognize that collection of **some type of data seems to be more difficult at present**.

On-going work in 2022 of the EMS WG:

- Continue the work and present the final recommendations to the SCRS in 2022.

- Aim to finalize work on: T-09 form data fields and Technical specifications of minimum standards (nº of cameras and location, etc).
- Provide any requested updates on the status of the work to PWG and receive feedback (and now to this EMS Working Group).
- The final recommendations from the Subgroup will be presented to the SCRS/SC-STATS in September 2022.

The CPC are encouraged to explore pilot to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during the first transfers and the automation of the video recording analyses.

### Results/Outcome

-Attending this EMS Working Group meeting FIP Blues gains first-hand knowledge about the work in progress in ICCAT for the development of Minim Norms and the side use as a tool for Control.

- Collaboration with ICCAT: sharing know-how of the topic:

In the view of the conclusions of this (and June-22 meeting) FIP BLUES is preparing a dossier/brief with the results of the project OBEPAL on electronic observation (OBEPAL: Creation of a Standard for electronic monitoring systems) and in particular with the **Standard UNE195007:2021** (Electronic monitoring in fishing vessels, Standard requirements). This is the know-how created by ORPAGU in 2020-2021 in relation to the topic that will be id for this purpose should be channelled through SGP-MAPA (Spanish Ministry) and the DGMARE (UE) in order to comply with the protocol of ICCAT protocols.

-By attending this meeting we are:

- increasing interaction with ICCAT (SCRS and scientists), as stated in Action 1.
- increasing presence in ICCAT technical discussions (attending as “listeners” for now) in working groups dealing with technical topics of interest for the FIP.
- getting direct insight on the current elements of debate on which to base, focus, approach our work and performance of FIP activities.
- having the opportunity to better evaluate information-data needed for studies, research, assessment and management of fisheries.
- gaining knowledge to develop potential proposals from the industry in support of ICCAT tasks to improve the management of the fishery, the harvest strategy, the control rules, to achieve clear management objectives, etc. Thus, delivering the requirements of recommendations, data demands, needs, research,

### Attendees/Participants

ICCAT staff, SCRS scientists, Delegations from CPC (Contracting Parties), fisheries managers, fishing industry representatives, NGOs

-FIP Blues technical staff (Xoán Lueiro)

### Date

28.02.2022

### Documents of proof

-Screenshot above.

-Attached email below.

- [REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS \(WG-EMS\)](#) (On-line, 28 February 2022), in “List of Participants”, page 9 (Xoán Lueiro, from FIPBLUES).

**Activity/task:**

Attendance to the webinar on “Implementing the Social Responsibility Assessment (SRA) Tool for FIPs”. 08-10.03.2022

**Subject & Aim**

This 3day webinar was organised to explain the Social Responsibility Assessment (SRA) Tool in order to meet the new FisheryProgress social reporting requirements and how to implement the SRA.

**Day 1: Social Science Methods:**

Training on social science methods integral to SRA implementation. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Data collection: Types and sources
- Data validation through triangulation
- Interview best practices
- Systems approach
- Sampling
- Root Cause Analysis

**Day 2: The SRA Process: the SRA process (Preparation and Assessment steps):**

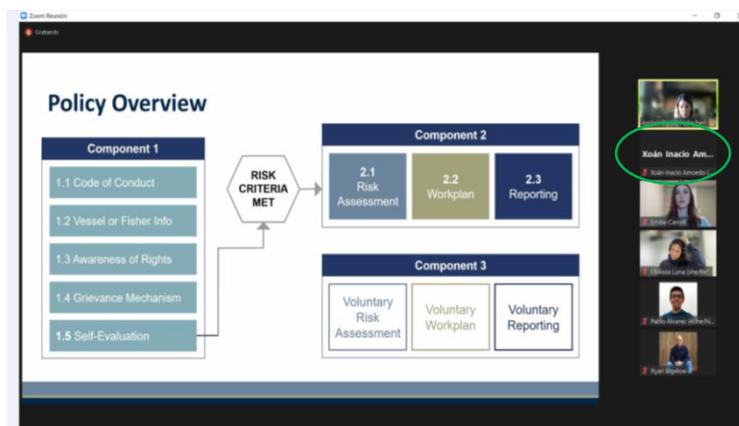
- Defining the Unit of Assessment
- Scheduling an assessment
- Assessment outline and components
- How to read the interpret the SRA
- Available SRA resources and when to use them

**Day 3: The SRA: in-depth look at the subject matter covered in the SRA**

“ELEVATE” (the organizers) went through the process to implement the FIP Social and the related documents:

- Self-evaluation (already presented in December 2021)
- Code of conduct
- Vessel list
- Grievance mechanism
- Complete risk assessment
- Complete workplan (if necessary depending of the results of the Risk assessment)

The components and methodology of this process was explained as well the requirements for the assessor in charge of the FIP Social work.



### **Results/Outcome**

-Complete explanation on how to prepare the required documents and to proceed in each phase, methodologies, advices, external auditor requirements, budget, unit of assessment etc. to deliver in this 6M-Progres report

### **Attendees/Participants**

-FIP Blues technical team (Xoán Lueiro attended one day)

### **Date**

Attendance on the 08.03.2022

### **Documents of proof**

Attached below: Email with confirmation of attendance  
Screenshot of the event above.

### Activity/task:

Meeting with the responsible of the Spanish MITECO to deal with the situation of mako commerce and the certificate CITES.

### Subject & Aim

MITECO: Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico.

MAPA: Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación.

OPPs: Organización de Productores Pesqueros (fishing associations).

The manager of the four OPPs (fishing associations) of FIP BLUES met with representatives of MITECO in order to deal with the situation of mako in Spain owing to the lack of agreement between the MAPA and the MITECO: it is allowed to retain short fin mako until certain catch level established by the RFOs (except for the North Atlantic) and applied by the MAPA as fisheries administration in Spain.



But, there seems to be an understanding on the part of the MITECO regarding how to administer CITES Appendix II certificate to allow the regulated/controlled trade of this specie and so it is not issuing the necessary certificates to sell the fish. Therefore, the OPPS complained for the economic prejudices arising from the paradoxical situation between the ministries. They claimed for a solution and clear certification to be able to sell the fish. Apart of this meeting there have several previous communications and talks with those state administrations and also with the Galician fisheries department ([https://www.xunta.gal/notas-de-prensa/-/nova/66848/galicia-urge-gobierno-central-una-solucion-bloqueo-comercializacion-las-capturas?langId=es\\_ES](https://www.xunta.gal/notas-de-prensa/-/nova/66848/galicia-urge-gobierno-central-una-solucion-bloqueo-comercializacion-las-capturas?langId=es_ES)). Among other arguments, when meeting with authorities, the OPPs asserted the FIPBLUES the commitment with fishing and commerce sustainability that suppose.

Main sectorial media reported on the issue during these months:

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/somosmar/2021/03/16/fuerzas-gallegas-unen-exigir-gobierno-desbloquee-venta-90-toneladas-marrajo/00031615915793587990240.htm>

<https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-69180-seccion-Sector%20Pesquero>

[Galicia urge al Gobierno una solución al bloqueo a la comercialización de las capturas de marrajo - Telemariñas \(telemarinhas.com\)](https://www.telemarinhas.com/galicia-urge-al-Gobierno-una-solucion-al-bloqueo-a-la-comercializacion-de-las-capturas-de-marrajo)

The conflict was finally solved in late March 2022:

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/somosmar/pesca-marisqueo/2022/03/26/acaba-calvario-impedia-palangreros-vender-marrajo-permitian-capturar/00031648295835445438136.htm>

<https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2022/03/24/flota-volver-pescar-marrajo-gobierno-64195087.html>

### Results/Outcome

FIP BLUES members as proactive stakeholders.

Interaction with Fisheries administrators and environment and commerce administrators from the Spanish government, continuing this way to keep close relations with the public authorities in all aspects related to fisheries management in ICCAT.

Final solution of the problem by the MITECO issuing the legal certificates

#### **Attendees/Participants**

OPPs managers and representatives

Representatives from the public administrations

#### **Date**

18.03.2022

#### **Documents of proof**

Screenshot of the virtual meeting above.

News and press releases linked in the text above

Attached below: official communication from MITECO issuing certificates

### Activity/task:

Attendance/presence in ICCAT's "2022 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (Including North Atlantic Swordfish MSE). On-line. 21.03.2022-01.04.2022

### Subject & Aim

FIP Blues attended this SCRS Meeting aimed at preparing data for the 2022 assessment of Atlantic Swordfish and reviewing the work done with regards to the North Atlantic Swordfish Marine Strategy Evaluation (MSE). The SCRS will include data up to 2020 for the assessment.

In addition the SCRS worked in updating relevant biological parameters and relative abundance indices (individual and combined) including data until 2021 when available.

In addition, during the meetings relevant matters related to the North Atlantic swordfish MSE development will be discussed.

The topics of the WG are reflected in the agenda of the meeting. Main items dealt with in bold:

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics
  - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) data
  - 3.2 Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
  - 3.3 **Catch-at-size, Catch-at-age, Weight at Age**
  - 3.4 Tagging data
4. Indices of abundance (individual and combined indices)
  - 4.1 North
  - 4.2 South
  - 4.3 **Trends and correlations in the CPUE indices**
  - 4.4 **Determine indices** to be used in the next assessment for the base-case and sensitivity runs
5. Discussion on **models to be used** during the assessment and their assumptions
  - 5.1 North
  - 5.2 South
  - 5.3 Diagnostics to be used for model validation
6. MSE matters
  - 6.1 Review of **current development state of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE**
  - 6.2. Presentation of the currently **adopted MSE roadmap** by the Commission
  - 6.3 Further **development of the MSE work during 2022**
    - 6.3.1 Discussion on reconditions OMs considering new information from the stock assessment, and plans to finalize the OM grid
    - 6.3.2 Continue work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances taking into account the exceptional circumstances protocol for N-ALB
    - 6.3.3 Discussion on performance indicators and advice intervals
    - 6.3.4 Continue work on development and testing of candidate management procedures
7. Other Matters
8. Recommendations and Workplan
9. Adoption of the report and closure

### Results/Outcome

-Attending the swordfish Working Group meeting FIP Blues gains first-hand knowledge about the work in progress in ICCAT with regards to scientific criteria, data bases availability, models and the management strategy evaluation in progress, and also the requirements in data quality, which is something FIP BLUES is working with.

-By attending this meeting we are:

- increasing interaction with ICCAT (SCRS and scientists), as stated in Action 1.

- increasing presence in ICCAT technical discussions (“listeners” for now) in working groups dealing with technical topics of interest for the FIP.
- getting direct insight on the current elements of debate on which to base, focus, approach our work and performance of FIP activities.
- having the opportunity to better evaluate information-data needed for studies, research, assessment and management of fisheries.
- gaining knowledge to develop potential proposals from the industry in support of ICCAT tasks to improve the management of the fishery, the harvest strategy, the control rules, to achieve clear management objectives, etc. Thus, delivering the requirements of recommendations, data demands, needs, research,

### Attendees/Participants

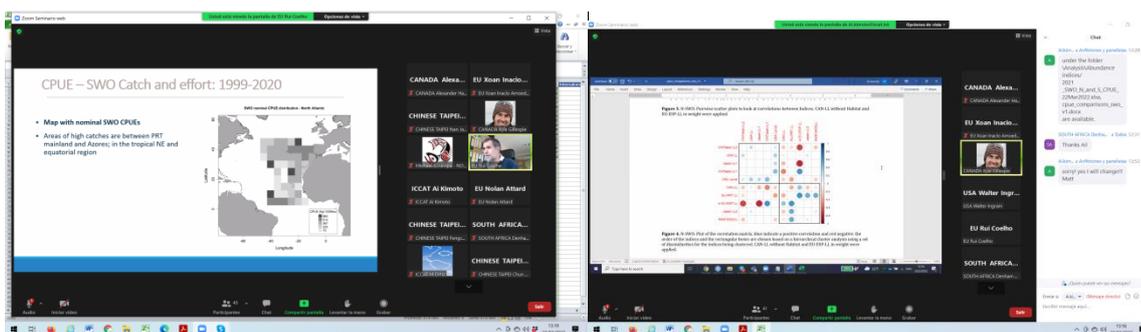
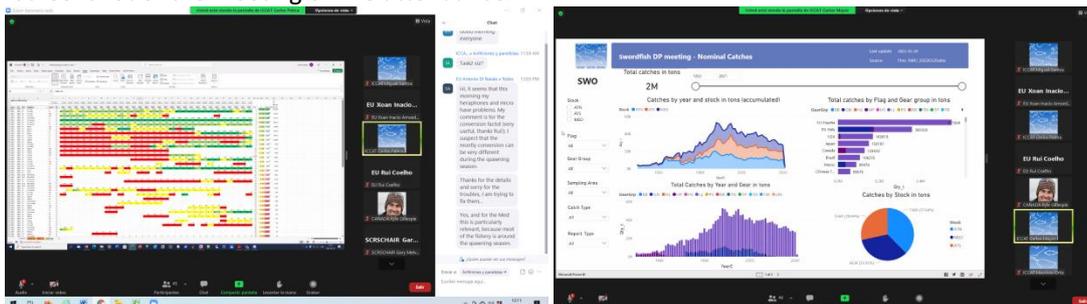
- Xoán Lueiro, technical team of the FIP Blues (Amoedo Lueiro, Xoan Inacio).
- **Participants:** ICCAT Secretariat staff, SCRS scientists, scientific and administrative delegations from Contracting Parties, policy makers from those countries, representatives of EU Advisory Councils, fisheries managers, fishing industry representatives, NGOs.

### Date

21.03.2022- 01.04.2022

### Documents of proof

- Xoán Lueiro in the List of Participants included in page 55 of the Appendix 2 from the Report of the meeting: [https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2022/REPORTS/2022\\_SWO\\_DP\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2022/REPORTS/2022_SWO_DP_ENG.pdf)
- Screenshot of the meeting online attendance.



### Activity/task:

Attendance/presence in ICCAT's "Interessional meeting of the Shark Species Group. 2022". 16-18 May 2022

### Subject & Aim

FIP Blues attended this SCRS Meeting aimed at the on-going activities of the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) and defining a work-plan for the blue shark stock assessment which had scheduled for 2023. It was also discussed to responses to the Commission namely those related to the Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries [Rec. 21-09]. In addition, the group also dealt with the ongoing joint ICES-ICCAT stock assessment for the North-eastern Atlantic Porbeagle.

The topics of the WG were those reflected in the agenda of the meeting:

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Presentation of activities under SRDCP and future activities
3. Review of **shark fishery statistics**
  - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) data
  - 3.2 Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
  - 3.3 Tagging data
4. Draft workplan for 2023 **blue shark stock assessment**
  - Model Diagnostics in Integrated Stock Assessments
  - Bycatch mitigation of BSH using a global habitat model by sex and size
5. ICES:ICCAT joint stock assessment for the North-eastern Atlantic porbeagle
6. Revision of **shark bycatch species** (as requested by the SC-ECO)
7. Adoption of the updated Shark chapters on the ICCAT Manual
8. Responses to the Commission
9. Recommendations
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

### Results/Outcome

-Attending the sharksh Working Group meeting FIP Blues gains first-hand knowledge about the work in progress in ICCAT with regards to Blue shark, one of the two target species of the FIP.

scientific criteria, data bases availability, models and the management strategy evaluation in progress, and also the requirements in data quality, which is something FIP BLUES is working with.

-By attending this meeting we are:

- increasing interaction with ICCAT (SCRS and scientists), as stated in Action 1.
- increasing presence in ICCAT technical discussions ("listeners" for now) in working groups dealing with technical topics of interest for the FIP.
- getting direct insight on the current elements of debate on which to base, focus, approach our work and performance of FIP activities.
- having the opportunity to better evaluate information-data needed for studies, research, assessment and management of fisheries.
- gaining knowledge to develop potential proposals from the industry in support of ICCAT tasks to improve the management of the fishery, the harvest strategy, the control rules, to achieve clear management objectives, etc. Thus, delivering the requirements of recommendations, data demands, needs, research,

### Attendees/Participants

-Xoán Lueiro, technical team of the FIP Blues (Amoedo Lueiro, Xoan Inacio).

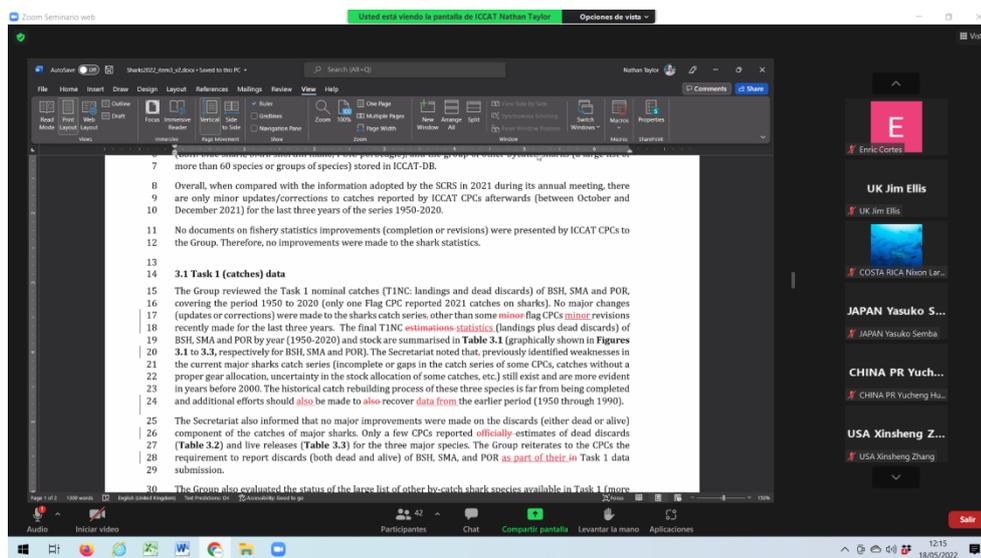
- **Participants:** ICCAT Secretariat staff, SCRS scientists, scientific and administrative delegations from Contracting Parties, policy makers from those countries, representatives of EU Advisory Councils, fisheries managers, fishing industry representatives, NGOs.

## Date

16.05.2022- 18.05.2022

## Documents of proof

- Attached below: Email confirming registration
- Screenshot of the meeting online attendance.
- Report of the meeting has not been published yet.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a document editor with the following text:

7 more than 60 species or groups of species) stored in ICCAT-DB.

8 Overall, when compared with the information adopted by the SCRS in 2021 during its annual meeting, there

9 are only minor updates/corrections to catches reported by ICCAT CPCs afterwards (between October and

10 December 2021) for the last three years of the series 1950-2020.

11 No documents on fishery statistics improvements (completion or revisions) were presented by ICCAT CPCs to

12 the Group. Therefore, no improvements were made to the shark statistics.

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15 **3.1 Task 1 (catches) data**

16 The Group reviewed the Task 1 nominal catches (TINC: landings and dead discards) of BSH, SMA and POR

17 covering the period 1950 to 2020 (only one Flag CPC reported 2021 catches on sharks). No major changes

18 (updates or corrections) were made to the sharks catch series, other than some minor flag CPCs minor revisions

19 recently made for the last three years. The final TINC estimations statistics (landings plus dead discards) of

20 BSH, SMA and POR by year (1950-2020) and stock are summarised in Table 3.1 (graphically shown in Figures

21 3.1 to 3.3, respectively for BSH, SMA and POR). The Secretariat noted that, previously identified weaknesses in

22 the current major sharks catch series (incomplete or gaps in the catch series of some CPCs, catches without a

23 proper gear allocation, uncertainty in the stock allocation of some catches, etc.) still exist and are more evident

24 in years before 2000. The historical catch rebuilding process of these three species is far from being completed

25 and additional efforts should also be made to also recover data from the earlier period (1950 through 1990).

26 The Secretariat also informed that no major improvements were made on the discards (either dead or alive)

27 component of the catches of major sharks. Only a few CPCs reported officially estimates of dead discards

28 (Table 3.2) and live releases (Table 3.3) for the three major species. The Group reiterates to the CPCs the

29 requirement to report discards (both dead and alive) of BSH, SMA, and POR as part of their in Task 1 data

30 submission.

31 The Group also evaluated the status of the large list of other benchmark shark species available in Task 1 (more

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The Zoom meeting interface shows a list of participants on the right side, including Eric Cortes, UK Jim Ellis, COSTA RICA Nison Ler..., JAPAN Yasuko S..., CHINA PR Yuch..., and USA Xinsheng Z... The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom controls for audio, video, chat, and screen sharing.

### Activity/task:

Attendance/presence in ICCAT's "MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON A CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME". 4-5 April 2022

### Subject & Aim

FIP Blues attended this first Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Catch Document Scheme (by Resolution in 2021)

The topics of the WG were those reflected in the agenda of the meeting:

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Election of Chair
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Overview of existing SDP / CDS schemes:
  - a) ICCAT
  - b) Other RFMOs
  - c) CPCs
6. Presentation of FAO Technical Guidelines "Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes – A guide for national authorities"
7. Presentation by an Observer on aligning RFMO catch documentation schemes to combat IUU fishing
8. Initial consideration of:
  - a) species that might be covered by any potential new CDS in ICCAT
  - b) practical and technical difficulties in CDS design and implementation and possible solutions
  - c) ensuring compatibility with other tuna RFMOs CDSs and avoiding duplication for ICCAT CPCs
  - d) utility of the eBCD system for other ICCAT species and potential modifications
9. Capacity needs of developing CPCs to support CDS implementation
10. Workplan and/or next steps
11. Coordination with the eBCD TWG
12. Reporting to the Commission
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of Report and closure

The discussion started after FAO proposal and then it went around the current situation in the RFMOs in relation to catch documentation schemes, scope, contents, feasibility, etc. The CPCs representatives talked on which should be the objectives of CDS, species covered by a new CDS in ICCAT, practical and technical difficulties, utilization of the eBCD system for other species and modifications, enhancement of the capacity of developing CPCs, avoiding duplication with existing schemes and reducing the workload of exporting CPCs, ensuring compatibility with other tuna RFMOs... A Workplan was set and the recommendation to interact with the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)

### Results/Outcome

-Attending the meeting of the new Working Group on Catch Document Scheme FIP Blues got first-hand knowledge about the future plans to standardise that process and the technical and operative issues to be developed.

-By attending this meeting we are:

- increasing interaction with ICCAT (SCRS and scientists), as stated in Action 1.
- increasing presence in ICCAT technical discussions ("listeners" for now) in working groups dealing with technical topics of interest for the FIP.
- getting direct insight on the current elements of debate on which to base, focus, approach our work and performance of FIP activities.
- having the opportunity to better evaluate information-data needed for studies, research, assessment and management of fisheries.

-gaining knowledge to develop potential proposals from the industry in support of ICCAT tasks to improve the management of the fishery, the harvest strategy, the control rules, to achieve clear management objectives, etc. Thus, delivering the requirements of recommendations, data demands, needs, research,

#### **Attendees/Participants**

-Xoán Lueiro, technical team of the FIP Blues (Amoedo Lueiro, Xoan Inacio).

- **Participants:** ICCAT Secretariat staff, SCRS scientists, scientific and administrative delegations from Contracting Parties, policy makers from those countries, representatives of EU Advisory Councils, fisheries managers, fishing industry representatives, NGOs.

#### **Date**

04.04.2022- 05.04.2022

#### **Documents of proof**

-Attached below: Email confirming registration

-Xoán Lueiro and Carlos Barciela (ORPAGU) listed in the List of Participants (page 9) of the Appendix 2 in the draft report of the meeting:

[https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/Py4ikXqjDOEkjsy?path=%2FReport%2F2nd\\_draft](https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/Py4ikXqjDOEkjsy?path=%2FReport%2F2nd_draft)

-Screenshot of the meeting online attendance.