



SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

(December 2022-May 2023)

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/achievements/progress.

- > EU joined the IUU Fishing Action Alliance to stimulate ambition and action in the fight against IUU fishing. 02.03.2023.
- > New Spanish “Law for sustainable fisheries and fisheries research” (Ley de Pesca Sostenible e Investigación Pesquera).
- > Participation in the LDAC WG1 (Long Distance Advisory Council) on tuna and tuna like stocks and RFMOs. (21.03.2023).
- > Participation and presentation in the Meeting of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council) April 2023.
- > II Congreso Interfish-España 2023: “Sostenibilidad en la pesquería de palangre de superficie” (2nd Congress Interfish-España; Sustainability in the longline fishery).
- > Position papers/communications:
 - Treaty of the High Seas to protect the ocean. The influence in fisheries management.
 - Treaty of the High Seas to protect the ocean. The view of the industry (longline).
 - Communications to SGP asking to solve the activation of the last DEA version
- > Attendance and Statement by the industry in the hearing of the European Citizens’ Initiative “Stop Finning – Stop the trade” organised by the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) of the European Parliament (EP). 27.03.2023.
- > Attendance/participation to/in ICCAT Meetings SCRS, WG and Commission.
- > Interaction with ICCAT: meeting with the chair of the chair of the WG-EMS appointed.
- > Event on fisheries and biodiversity: "La nueva estrategia de biodiversidad de la Unión Europea", by OPROMAR.

Activity/task/achievement:

EU joined the **IUU Fishing Action Alliance** to stimulate ambition and action in the fight against illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing

Subject & Aim

The EU has joined the **IUU Fishing Action Alliance**. This way the EU fully supports and already pursues – for more than a decade – the main objectives of the Alliance through the EU IUU Regulation: internally with Member States by means of the **EU Catch Certification Scheme** and externally via IUU dialogues with third countries as well as through our general external actions on international ocean governance, maritime safety and labour conditions.

This agreement has been reached in the framework of the 8th Our Ocean Conference (‘Our Ocean, Our Connection’) focused on ensuring protection of our ocean, responsible management of marine resources, and sustainable future economic growth.

The members seek for coordinating efforts to combat **IUU and share** information and best practices

This alliance commits to:

- Advance the research, development and data collection and sharing to combat IUU fishing.
- Work together on the preventing, deterring, and combatting IUU fishing.
- Support the effective regulation and sustainable management of fisheries in all parts of our ocean, including through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which they participate.
- Improve data collection on harmful fishing practices related to IUU fishing, including labour abuses in the seafood supply chain, and increase collaboration to better identify and address labour abuses, forced labour, and unsafe working conditions in the fishing industry.
- Promote transparency and traceability throughout the seafood supply chain, enabling market-based and import control tools and eliminating the flow of profits to IUU fishing perpetrators.

Results/Outcome

- These are all actions connected to the implementation of the FIP program, so, as part of the EU, it constitutes another step of FIP Blues in transparency and commitment with fully regulated fisheries. At the same time, this implies more regulation and control over the fleet and stresses the importance of data collection.

- Another proof and statement this fleet does not practice IUU.

- In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 14 Life below water (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development):

14.4: effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.6: prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Participants/key players

States/partners signing the treaty: EU, Canada, Iceland, United Kingdom, United States, Iceland, Republic of Korea, Norway, New Zealand, Panamá and Chile. They are all key players in the international fisheries.

Supporters: Environmental Justice Foundation; Global Fishing Watch; Global Tuna Alliance, Oceana; The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network; The Pew Charitable Trusts; TM-Tracking; Seafood Ethics Action Alliance; and Skylight.

Date

02.03.2023

Documents of proof

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_1290

<https://oceanpanama2023.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Agenda-Actualizada-1-MAR-PM-FINAL-English.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC5LJPRI2Xk&t=1s>

<https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia.php?id=74464>

Activity/task/achievement:

New Spanish “Law for sustainable fisheries and fisheries research” (Ley de Pesca Sostenible e Investigación Pesquera).

Subject & Aim

The new “(Law on sustainable fishing and fisheries research” was adopted by the SG-MAPA and entered into force on 18.03.2023.

This law guarantees an optimal and sustainable use of fishing resources that will result in the improvement of the profitability of the Spanish fleet and fisheries conservation. In addition the link between fishing and research is strengthened therefore scientific knowledge is the basis for fishing activity and so it is the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

It is based on the principle of the triple sustainability: environmental, social and economic.

The law is produced in the framework of the European Green Deal, which considers also the balance between marine conservation and fishing activities. For that, this law considers the capacity to adopt measures like catch limits, fishing effort and gear regulation, size-weight limits and closure always taking into account the industry and the best available scientific information.

Results/Outcome

-Progress in fisheries sustainability under scientific criteria and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

-Technical and administrative regulations which increase fisheries control, transparency and monitoring.

-More legal security for fishing operators.

Participants/key players

The Spanish SGP-MAPA (Ministry for fisheries affairs)

The fishing industry participated in the previous consultations to key players/stakeholders.

Date

18.03.2023

Documents of proof

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/el-boe-publica-la-nueva-ley-de-pesca-sostenible-e-investigaci%C3%B3n-pesquera-para-su-entrada-en-vigor-/tcm:30-647887>

<https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/03/18/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-7052.pdf>

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/230318leypescasostenibleenboe_tcm30-647886.pdf

Activity/Task

Participation in the “Working Group 1: Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and RFMOs (ICCAT) of the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC).

LDAC is one of the eleven European Union fisheries’ bodies for stakeholders’ participation.

Subject & Aim

This activity is framed at action 1 task for increasing presence and interaction with institutions and bodies related to fisheries management in ICCAT.

OPPs representatives from FIP Blues had a proactive role in this WG dealing with management of the fishery in ICCAT and delivered the vision from the industry. Those are going to be taken into consideration by EU’s DGMARE (the CCP in ICCAT) to prepare its positions in the Commission and SCRS meetings in 2023.

Issue related to ICCAT:

- 4.1. Report from DG MARE on process and main work priorities for ICCAT 2023 (Egypt, 13-20 Nov).
- 4.2. Identification of topics for preparation of LDAC advice and way forward.
- 4.3. ToR for Inter AC work on a preparation of a joint advice (CCRUP-SWWAC-MEDAC).

In this meeting DG Mare and stakeholders’ reviewed common discussions and positions about different issues concerning the fishery. The DG Mare made a presentation of the last year agreements in ICCAT and the key points to be dealt with in 2023, like for instance, blue shark stocks assessment, swordfish MSE, the application of the last Recommendation 22-12 by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, etc.

Then stakeholders commented their view on these points and propose to have more meetings to prepare a common position for 2023 ICCAT Commission meeting.

Results/Outcome

-By attending this meeting, the OPPs express their view on issues that have influence on the fishery and make proposals on management measures. Then, when agreement is reached and a common position is adopted, the WG finally submit this statement for DGMARE to take into consideration and integrate in their arguments in ICCAT Annual Meeting in 2023.

-Thus, FIP Blues is also extending its presence in fisheries management for and at the same time increasing the visibility of the FIP itself.

- The FIP actors will work in producing proposals to present to DG Mare in next meetings.

Attendees/Participants

- OPPs representatives (OPNAPA, OPP7Burela, ORPAGU, OPROMAR) in situ; Xoán Lueiro, on line.

-LDAC Secretariat staff, EU-DG Mare technical staff, representatives of other OPPs and fisheries organizations, researchers, public managers, NGOs.

Date

21.03.2023

Documents of proof

-<https://ldac.eu/en/meetings/archive/working-group-1-highly-migratory-tuna-and-tuna-like-stocks-and-its-rfmos-21-03-2023>.

-Annex 1. Email with invitation and agenda

-*Minutes of the meeting to be published by the Secretariat of the LDAC. Not available yet.*

Activity/task:

Attendance (FIP Blues staff) and Statement by the industry (in-person) in the hearing of the European Citizens' Initiative "Stop Finning – Stop the trade" organised by the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) of the European Parliament (EP).

Subject & Aim

On the 27.03.2023 the hearing of the European Citizens' initiative "Stop finning" took place at the headquarters of the EP. See agenda in "[DRAFT PROGRAMME PUBLIC HEARING](#)".

After the opening of the event by the authorities, the promoters initiated the presentation of the initiative, showing the objective and argument for their proposal to change the rules on the trade of loose shark fins from Europe. You can see the video of the promoter intervention from 15:22:30 to 15:49:50, and from 16:22:10 to 16:44:25 on the following link: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/pech-envi-peti_20230327-1500-COMMITTEE-PECH-ENVI-PETI

Afterwards, it was the turn for the **Statement from the industry** by Daniel Voces de Onaindi (Managing Director of Europêche) who presented the actual state of the fishery with scientific data, facts and arguments that contested the biases or prejudices of the initiative in relation to the situation in the EU. In summary: it was stated that the European fleet condemn and reject finning, does not practice finning and even less throw the animals back into the sea. You can see the video of Daniel Voces intervention from 15.50.25 to 16.00.10:49:50 on the same link: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/pech-envi-peti_20230327-1500-COMMITTEE-PECH-ENVI-PETI

Interventions were made then by members of the European Parliament belonging to the Fisheries Committee, expressing their view on the topic. These parliamentarians gave different views on the subject: some supported the initiative and others welcome it but said the situation presented was not the case for the EU, where fisheries and its value chain are the most regulated and controlled in the world.

With the **collaboration of the industry** (among others, the associate [OPP7Burela](#)) the Europêche representative presented the arguments (based on scientific and official data) that refuted the assertions of the initiative in relation to the EU context, like for instance:

- the European fleet catches mostly blue shark, a species regulated by the RFMOs with TACs which is in good shape in all the RFMOs.
- “finning” is banned in the EU (“Fins Naturally Attached” Regulation (EU) No 605/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which is still in force) and it is controlled by different ways.
- the fin is just a by-product of the fish processing and not an end at itself.
- proving that the trade of shark fins from Europe is absolutely controlled and regulated from the sea to the processing plants and then to market. Market is under strict government control-regulation in EU and CITES obligations.
- the industry is implementing the FIP Blues, a pioneering initiative for this fishery.
- the industry has been collaborating and collaborates with the scientists, public managers and NGOs.
- He also suggested the promoters to put the focus in other world regions where unregulated and/or illegal fishing and markets are taking place with the subsequent illegal market for shark fin.

At the end, Statements by Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS (Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries) and by Peter SCHMIDT (President of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section of the European Economic and Social Committee) were given. It is expected that the EU Commission deliver its response to this initiative by July 11th 2023.

Results/Outcome

- FIP activities disseminated at international level and before highly relevant stakeholders of the European Union Parliament and the European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), as well fisheries management-related players and international NGOs.
- FIP Blues pointed as an initiative directly created by the industry and the associated supply chain.
- Transparency is one of the principles of FIP Blues and, consequently, FIP Blues is always keen to inform on the fishery facts and reality in any forum it is invited, directly or through other associated players as in this case.
- Effective collaboration with Europêche through OPP7 Burela to present the industry performance and data at this high level meeting in the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels.
- The information provided by Europêche should help the members of the EP and the promoters clarify the actual data on this affair.
- FIP Blues pointed as the tool of the industry to improve the sustainability of the fishery.

Participants

- Committee on Fisheries (PECH) of the European Parliament (EU).
- Associated committees: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee on Petitions (PETI).
- European Parliament members and the group forming to the Fisheries Committee.
- FIP Blues members attended the meeting via streaming: technical staff and OPPs representatives;
- Daniel Voces intervened by Europêche, European organization in which OPP7 Burela is associate.

Date

27.03.2023

Documents of proof

- Programme of the Public Hearing:
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/267182/Final%20programme%20ECI%20hearing%20Finning_EN.pdf
- Press: https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-74680-seccion-Pol%C3%ADtica_de_Pesca
- Video record of the session:
https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/pech-envi-peti_20230327-1500-COMMITTEE-PECH-ENVI-PETI
- Presentation of Europêche:
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/267515/Item%201%20Mr%20VOCES%20Europeche%20powerpoint%20Finning%20EP%2027%20March%202023.pdf>
- Annex 2. Letter from EUROPECHE stating the support provided by OPP7Buela

Activity/task:

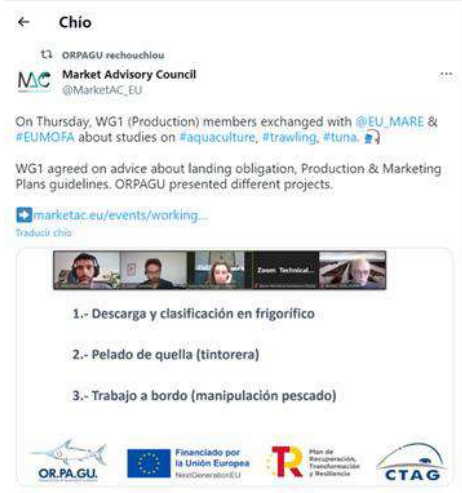
Participation and presentation in the Meeting of the MAC (EU Market Advisory Council). April 2023.

Subject & Aim

Participation of Juana Parada (General Secretary of ORPAGU) in the meeting of the WG1 (Production).

She presented the different projects related to the OPP production, sustainability, fish processing, improvements of technologies and conditions on board for crew, etc.

The Working Group 1 brings together fish producers, transforming industry and market agents, extending sustainability commitment through all the value chain.



Results/Outcome

- FIP BLUES members increasing the visibility of the sustainability of the industry and its commitment with EU and RFMO.
- To be present on the scenarios where those components of the market and fisheries sustainability are discussed and submitted to DGMARE.
- To provide the view of the fishing industry of FIP Blues and collaborate with the AC.

Attendees/Participants

Juana Parada (ORPAGU).

Date

28.03.2023

Documents of proof

- Documentation of the Meeting: <https://marketac.eu/events/working-group-1-4-972-210/>
- ORPAGU presentation: <https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ORPAGU-Presentation-POs-Projects.pdf>

Activity/task:

II CONGRESO INTERFISH-ESPAÑA 2023: “SOSTENIBILIDAD EN LA PESQUERÍA DE PALANGRE DE SUPERFICIE” (II CONGRES INTERFISH-SPAIN 2023: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LONGLINE FISHERY).

Subject & Aim

INTERFISH is a Spanish association that represents the fish value chain companies (fishing industry, fish processors and fish marketers). Three OPPs from FIP Blues are part of this association, being one of its aims working in social responsibility, resources efficient managing to guarantee the economic, social and environmental sustainability.

From 12-13 April 2023 the association organised the “II CONGRESO INTERFISH-ESPAÑA 2023” (Second Congress Interfish Spain 2023) in Vigo (the main European fishing port), which focused on a wide range of aspects concerning the sustainability of the long-line fishery. [See program here](#).

This relevant event was distributed in [thematic “tables”](#) with participating high level speakers (national and international) from ICCAT, Galician, Spanish and Portuguese public administrations responsible for fisheries affairs and also from the Ministry of Environment, the industry, fisheries researchers, independent fisheries experts, NGOs, journalists specialized in fisheries, etc.

Mesa 1 (Table 1): Papel de las administraciones públicas ante la sostenibilidad pesquera (The role of public administrations in fisheries sustainability).

Mesa 2 (Table 2): La sostenibilidad desde la pesquería de palangre de superficie (Fisheries sustainability from the industry).

Mesa 3 (Table 3): La ciencia al servicio de la sostenibilidad (Science at the service of sustainability) from the industry).

Mesa 4 (Table 4): El apoyo de la distribución a la sostenibilidad pesquera (The support from the distribution sector to fisheries sustainability).

Mesa 5 (Table 5): Las interprofesionales alimentarias y la comunicación ante la sostenibilidad alimentaria. (The food interprofessional organizations and the communication for food sustainability).

Tables 1, 2 and 3 were specifically focused in the fishery (authorities, public managers, science, industry) and FIP Blues representatives participated in those tables, either as chairperson and as technical speaker in behalf of their organizations and the industry itself (Sergio López, from OPP7 Burela; Emilio Martínez Cadilla, from ANECTEAM). Therefore, FIP Blues were presented and dealt with during the discussions time (FIP Blues objectives, action plan, progress of the project, etc). It is also worth highlighting the participation in the table 2 of Pedro Ferreiro, from Sustainable Fisheries Partnership-Spain.

The ICCAT president and the representatives from the Spanish fisheries administration highlighted the efforts and improvements made by this industry and the increased collaboration and will to participate in fisheries sustainability. It is important to highlight here the opinion about the sustainability of the fleet given by Ernesto Penas, current ICCAT Commission president both in his presentation and the debate as well as during an [interview with “Industrias Pesqueras”](#), a reference publication specialized in fisheries in Spain.

Once the tables were finished after two days of discussion with the participation of those 22 well known experts both at national and international level, Juan Martín (President of Interfish Spain and manager of OPRMAR) closed the event presenting the [main conclusions of the 2-day congress](#).

Results/Outcome

-New communication event organised by three of the FIP Blues OPPs showing the relevance and progress of FIP Blues.

-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).

- Increased 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.
- The FIP Blues fleet is recognised as one of the more regulated, controlled and self-responsible fleets in terms of fishing sustainability and compliance with all legislation and recommendations.
- There is a strict and binding legislative framework for all these players of the fisher; Spain and the EU is at the cutting edge of fishing sustainability and responsible fisheries management and governance.
- Galician long line fisheries operator as an example of the balance between the three pillars of the EU fisheries sustainability principles: environmental, social and economic.
- Science-based management has been strengthened as key player for the last decades by the Spanish sectorial public administration.
- ICAAT must be a reference in TAC & Quotes allocation and the fisheries management, and it must be a key coordinator point of all agents intervening in fisheries management: EU Commission, Science, Cites, public manages, the industry, etc.
- Stocks assessments and the ecosystem-based approach
- See concussions at <https://interfish.es/conclusiones-ii-congreso-interfish-espana/>

Participants

- FIP Blues Members, the OPPs, technical team
- Speakers from private and public institutions.
- Attendees.

Date

12-13.04.2023

Documents of proof

- All document of interest in: <https://interfish.es/congreso-interfish-2023/>
- Key links inserted above in the text.

Activity/task:

Treaty of the High Seas to protect the ocean: the influence in fisheries management.

Subject & Aim

On 05.03.2023 the UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction' treaty-High Seas Treaty was adopted. The aim is to protect the ocean, tackle environmental degradation, fight climate change, and prevent biodiversity loss. It represents a historic deal to protect international waters and progress in the sustainable use of resources and biodiversity in high seas, which will influence highly migratory fish stocks management as those ruled by ICCAT and other world RFMO.

In relation to fisheries, the new treaty will influence, among others by:

- allow establishing large-scale marine protected areas on the high seas of at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.
- requiring assessment of the impact of economic activities on high seas biodiversity.

Besides, it was understood the need to respect the mandates of relevant international frameworks and bodies (IFBs) and not to undermine such IFBs, which may include major multilateral environmental agreements with ABNJ-related provisions, regional treaties, or regional fisheries managements organizations (RFMOs).

Results/Outcome

- New international agreement that will interact with fisheries stocks and so in the future management measures to be adopted by the RFMO.
- The "High Seas Treaty" aims at placing 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030 which will be presumably a new factor to be considered in future RFMO's fisheries management.
- New international agreement that will interact with fisheries and stocks conservations and so in the future management measures by the RFMO.
- RFMOs are considered the key players to regulate and manage fisheries international waters and the adequate scenario to make decisions on that.
- The impact of economic activities on high seas biodiversity will be assessed.

Participants/key players

- UN, member states signing the treaty. EU-DG Mare
- The fishing industry was represented by Cepesca and Europeche, sector association were some OPP are also integrated.

Date

05.03.2023

Documents of proof/Evidence

- <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>
- https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=xxi-2&chapter=21
- <https://enb.iisd.org/marine-biodiversity-beyond-national-jurisdiction-bbnj-igc5-resumed>
- EU:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_1382?pk_source=ec_newsroom&pk_medium=email&pk_campaign=MARE%20Newsletter

Activity/task/

Treaty of the High Seas to protect the ocean: the view from the industry (long-liners from EU-Spain and Europeche).

Subject & Aim

The treaty was welcome by the industry and key representatives expressed their view on the historical decision adopted to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas.

The general message is that the fishing industry from EU has made huge efforts to progress towards sustainability, the will to collaborate to protect marine biodiversity and underline the proactive work of EU fishing authorities and operators in conserving biodiversity. Also, it was underscored the key role of regional fisheries managements organizations (RFMOs) in relation to ABNJ-related provisions.

Results/Outcome

- View of the long-line fishing industry expressed.
- Expression of interest in being part of the progress move to conserve biodiversity in high seas waters while maintaining sustainable fishing.
- Claim of the proactive role of this industry in adopting conservation measures in the RFMO

Participants/key players

- FIP Blues members.
- Representative of Europeche and Cepesca.

Date

March, April 2023

Documents of proof/Evidence

- FIP Blues position on the Treaty of the High Seas: <https://fipblues.com/archivos/1551>
- https://europeche.chil.me/post/europeche-welcomes-new-treaty-for-high-seas-432428#_ftnref1
- <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-74788-seccion-Opini%C3%B3n>

Activity/task/

Request to SGP for fixing the right functioning of a new field on the fishing e-logbook (DEA)

Subject & Aim

To urge the “Sub directorate General for fisheries Surveillance and Control and fight against the IUU fishing” of the SGP requesting to solving technical issues in the DEA (electronic log book).

The new version of the DEA in late 2022 was supposed to add new fields, among them, a new one to allow the captains record the vital state of shortfin mako discards (alive/dead). This technical error in the DEA was reported in various communications to the SGP as the captains were informing of the malfunctioning of that new field than prevent those registers properly.

OPPs communicated this error to the SGP and besides ask to extend that field to all species register and not only for SMA. This issue is being solved nowadays, according to last communications from the SGP.

Results/Outcome

-New version of the DEA arranged.

-Vessels will reinstall the right version when they get land.

- Once the fleet may install the new version, more and better quality data is expected to be reported (state of the discarded specimens) which is a recurrent demand of ICCAT.

Participants/key players

-SGP. FIP Blues OPPs, Vessels, Captains.

Date

April-May 2023

Documents of proof/Evidence

Annex 3. Emails to/from the SGP and OPPs.

Email from the SGP informing the OPPs on the new field to register more SMA data on the DEA (fishing e-logbook)

From OPPs to associate vesselowners (example: ORPAGU)

Activity/task:

Attendance/participation to/in ICCAT technical meetings (January-May 2023)

Subject & Aim

As part of the EU delegation (CPC in ICCAT) FIP Blues members are authorised to attend meetings of the Working groups, Panel intersessions and Commission meetings. Although this fact sheet is reported in Action 1, it actually works as a crosscutting task that feed all actions of FIP Blues, as explained in past reports. As the RFMO of the Atlantic Ocean, relevant items are dealt with in these meetings during the whole year and final decisions taken based on the technical conclusions of these working groups.

FIP Blues have attended the following meetings during this semester:

- > Attendance and intervention in the 1st Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group. SCRS (Virtual, 15.02.2023).
- > Attendance to First intersessions meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic swordfish MSE (Online, 06.03.2023). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2023/REPORTS/2023_PA4_SWO_MSE_MAR_ENG.pdf
- > Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (Portugal)/Hybrid, 17-21.04.23
- > Intersessions Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Ecosystems and By-catch (Hybrid/Madrid Spain, 8-12.05.2023).
- > Intersessions Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE). (22-26.05.2023).
- > Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) (30 May) - ON-LINE - ()

Results/Outcome

- Increasing presence and interaction with ICCAT (WG, SCRS and Commission) attending the most relevant meetings for the fishery.
- Increasing interaction with ICCAT (through SGP and DGMARE).
- FIPBLUES continues to be present in those discussions whose topics are directly linked to the actions we develop in the FIP.
- FIP Blues gains first-hand knowledge of the progress on the current elements of debate on which to approach the improvement of the performance of the fleet. Eg. understanding of the information-data needed for studies, research, assessment and management of fisheries, and so, how we can improve our performance in data collection; better 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. And thus, delivering the requirements of recommendations, data type needs, research, etc. Eg. the development of EMS Minim Norms and the side use as a tool for Control; swordfish MSE progress; blue shark new stock assessment preparation, etc.
- At the same time FIP Blues has shown its pioneering use and progress in electronic observation in long-line vessels and rises as a proactive fleet.
- FIP Blues previous experience to be taken into account by the WG in the development of the standard.

Attendees/Participants

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

- FIP Blues members and technical staff.

Date

See the list of meetings above

Documents of proof

> Report of the “**First Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (WG-EMS)** (Online, 15.02.2023): https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2023/REPORTS/2023_EMS_ENG.pdf

-FIP Blues attendees are listed in the page 10 of the “List of Participants”: Xoán Lueiro, Carlos Barciela, Juana Parada.

-ORPAGU’s OBEPAL presentation is attached “ORPAGU-presentation_UNE Standard E.Observ”.

> Report of the “**First intersessional meeting of Panel 4 on North Atlantic swordfish MSE** (Online, 06.03.2023)”:

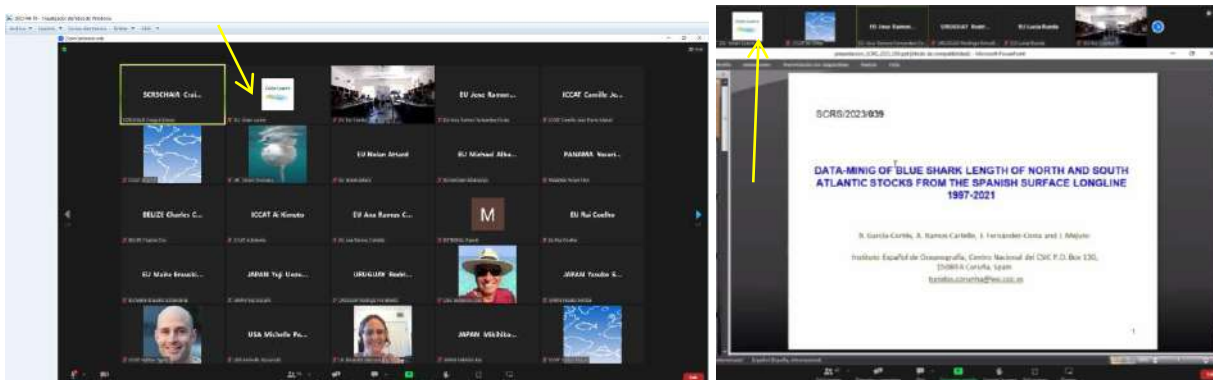
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2023/REPORTS/2023_PA4_SWO_MSE_MAR_ENG.pdf

> Report of the **Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting** (Portugal)/Hybrid, 17-21.04.23) with the “List of Participants”: **not yet available**.

Other evidences of attendance:

Annex 4: email from ICCAT accepting and sending link to the meeting.

Screenshots.



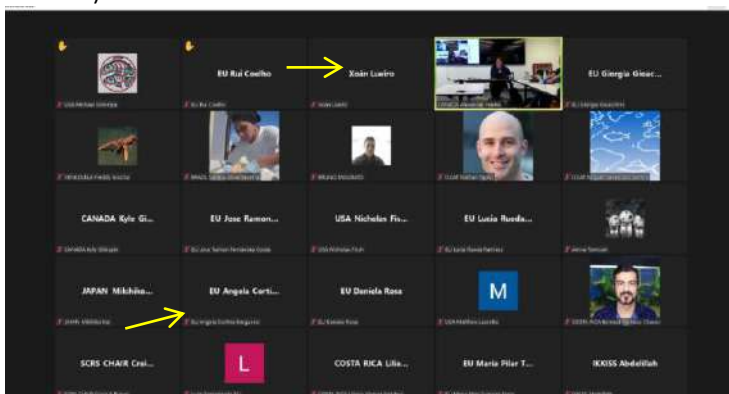
> Report of the “**Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Ecosystems and By-catch** (Hybrid/Madrid Spain, 8-12.05.2023)” with the “List of Participants”: **not yet available**.

Other evidence of attendance:

Email from ICCAT in attachment accepting and sending link to the meeting (in Annex 4).

> Report of the “**Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group** (including MSE). (22-26.05.2023)” with the “List of Participants”: **not yet available**.

Other evidence of attendance: email from ICCAT in attachment accepting and sending link to the meeting (in Annex 4) and screenshots.



Activity/task:

Event on biodiversity and fisheries: "La nueva estrategia de biodiversidad de la Unión Europea" (The new EU Strategy for Biodiversity)

Subject & Aim

This conference on [the new EU Strategy for Biodiversity](#) consisted of five thematic sessions and was focused on the implications for the fishing industry of the recently adopted "EU Strategy for Biodiversity". The event, organised by the FIP Blues association "OPROMAR", was held at the conference room of the headquarters of the SGP-MAPA on the 16.05.2023. The other FIP Blues OPPs took also part in the different sessions.

This relevant event was distributed in five sessions with high level speakers (national and international) from FAO, EU DG Mare, SGP-MAPA, research institutions, universities, representatives from the industry, and MSC:

Session 1: Presentation by Mrs. Maja Kirchner (EU's DG Mare):

Plan de acción para proteger y restaurar los ecosistemas marinos en pro de una pesca sostenible y resiliente. (Action Plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable and resilient fisheries).

Session 2: ¿Es posible una pesca de arrastre sostenible? (Is it possible sustainable trawling fishing?). Panel debate with the participation of researcher

Intervention of the MAPA Minister Luis Planas:

The Minister highlighted that the future fishing strategy shouldn't be focused only on limitations and prohibitions concerning fisheries conservation and marine ecosystems protection. He stressed the need to progress in the scientific bases for management decisions, adequate impact assessment and integrate the social view of fisheries to progress to sustainability. Finally, he acknowledged the efforts of the industry for fisheries sustainability. See [MAPA Press release](#).

Session 3: Gestión de los impactos de la pesca en el ecosistema marino (Management of the fishing impact on the marine ecosystem).

Session 4: La ordenación del espacio marítimo (Maritime Spatial Planning).

Session 5: La pesca y la alimentación (Fisheries and food).

Finally, Juan Martín (General Secretary of OPROMAR) closed the event presenting the main conclusions of the conference.

Results/Outcome

- Another high level event organised by FIP Blues OPPs dealing with marine environment and fisheries.
- Spread of key message of commitment with fisheries sustainability reaching more relevant stakeholders (national and international authorities as well international fishing entities and NGOs, etc).
- Increased acknowledgment and support from the public authorities and other key stakeholders (scientists, market players, NGOs) to the efforts and commitment from the industry with sustainable fisheries.
- Fishing techniques and operative measures by the industry are being recognised as important progress made by the fleets.
- Science-based management and analysis to cope with potential impacts by fishing activities.

-The industry reckoned as a key player for management measures design in fisheries sustainability and marine ecosystem conservation.

Participants

- FIP Blues Members, the OPPs, technical team
- Speakers from private and public institutions referred above.
- Representatives of the different fishing modalities in Spain.
- NGOs

Date

16.05.2023

Documents of proof

-Event web site with agenda and other documents:

<https://registro.eventospesca.com/jornada-opromar-2023>

- <https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia.php?id=75432>

-https://industriaspesqueras.com/noticia-75425-seccion-Sector_Pesquero

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/luis-planas-destaca-el-papel-de-las-organizaciones-de-productores-para-impulsar-el-crecimiento-de-un-sector-pesquero-puntero/tcm:30-652378>

Activity/task:

Interaction with ICCAT: request for a technical meeting with the chair of the WG-EMS of ICCAT to deal with issues related to EMS

Subject & Aim

FIP Blues requested a technical meeting with Neil Ansell to deal with technical aspects of the EMS. Mr Ansell is the chair of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (WG-EMS) in ICCAT and is coordinating the work by experts towards the delivery of a standardized electronic observation system for the long line fleet operating in ICCAT waters.

As three FIP Blues OPPs are increasing the use of electronic observation and a standard has been developed, FIP Blues seeks to increase collaboration with that WG and provide its experience in the matter, as well as preparing a technical report with the view of the industry on the final standards to be produced by ICCAT.

This meeting was first agreed to be in May but, due to the busy agenda of Neil Ansell, it has been postponed to mid-June 2023.

Results/Outcome

- FIP Blues continues to interact with ICCAT.
- Meeting agreed for mid-June 2023.
- FIP Blues gets the opportunity to share technical and administrative view on the development of the EMS standards in ICCAT.

Attendees/Participants

Xoán Lueiro, Neil Ansell

Date

May 2022

Documents of proof

Annex 5. Email with the formal request and final agreement to meet.

Annex 1

Email with invitation and agenda- LDAC

Asunto: Fwd: IMPORTANT: GT1: 09:30h nueva hora comienzo reunión / WG1 Meeting start time change (new time: 9:30h) / Changement de l'heure de début de la réunion du GT1 (nouvelle heure : 9:30h)
Remitente: [REDACTED]
Destinatario: [REDACTED]
Data: 2023-03-17 17:10:36

- ES_Draft_Agenda_WG1_LDAC_21-03-2023.doc
 - EN_Draft_Agenda_WG1_LDAC_21-03-2023.doc
 - FR_Project_Ordre du Jour GT1_CCPL_21-03-2023.doc
-

ES

Estimados miembros del Grupo de Trabajo 1:

Les informamos que debido a la petición de los representantes de la Comisión Europea el **Grupo de Trabajo 1 comenzará a las 9:30h** el martes 21 de marzo.

Adjunto encontrarán la agenda actualizada con los nuevos horarios para cada punto:

09.40h ICCAT- Océano Atlántico

10.40h CTOI- Comisión de Atún para el Océano Índico

12:00h WCPFC- Comisión de Pesca del Pacífico Occidental y Central

12:40h CIAT- Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical

Annex 2

Letter from EUROPECHE stating the support provided by OPP7Buela

Mr. Daniel Voces de Onáindi (Managing Director of Europêche),

On 27th March 2023 took place the hearing of the European Citizens' initiative "*Stop fining, Stop the trade*" at the European Parliament in Brussels. This event was organized by the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, a group of elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) dealing with fisheries and maritime affairs in the EU. The event was attended by Commissioner Sinkevicius and MEPs from other relevant committees such as environment and petitions.

After the intervention of the promoters of the initiative, Daniel Voces delivered a **statement on behalf of the industry**, presenting the actual state of the shark fishery and its market from an EU perspective. This presentation demonstrated the sustainability, good management and control of the fishery as well as the marketing of shark products supplied by EU operators. It also disproved some of the statements claimed by the campaigners through scientific data, facts and arguments on the reality of fishery and on the subsequent processing and marketing stages in relation to shark finning, a practice that EU fleet not only does not practice but also condemns and rejects.

To prepare this statement, Europêche requested the technical support of OPP7-Burela (associated organization) who provided useful data and information on the fishery and the market, as well their view on the matter to be discussed.

Therefore, Europêche recognizes the collaboration of the industry to prepare that statement that was finally submitted to the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Brussels, 31.03.2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Voces", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Voces de Onáindi

Managing Director of Europêche

Annex 3

Emails from the SGP informing the OPPs on the new field to register more SMA data on the DEA (fishing elogbook)

From SGP to OPPs

De: Buzón-Dea <Bzn-dea@mapa.es>

Enviado el: jueves, 11 de agosto de 2022 14:25

Asunto: Declaración de descartes de marrajo dientuso (SMA)

Buenos días,

La Subdirección General de Vigilancia Pesquera y Lucha Contra la Pesca Ilegal de la Secretaría General de Pesca quiere recordarles la relevancia de declarar correctamente los descartes de marrajo dientuso (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), que como saben tiene sus propias especificaciones.

Con la publicación en enero de este año del *Reglamento (UE) 2022/109 por el que se establecen para 2022 las posibilidades de pesca para determinadas poblaciones y grupos de poblaciones de peces aplicables en aguas de la Unión y, en el caso de los buques pesqueros de la Unión, en determinadas aguas no pertenecientes a la Unión*, queda prohibido mantener a bordo, transbordar o desembarcar cualquier parte o canales enteras de marrajos del Atlántico Norte (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) capturadas en las pesquerías de la zona del Convenio CICAA, tal y como se expone en el artículo 25.6. Por tanto **los descartes de marrajo dientuso (SMA) en todo el Atlántico Norte** (aguas del Atlántico al norte del paralelo 5º) deben declararse en el DEA utilizando el motivo "**especie prohibida**" (**PRO**).

En las **aguas comunitarias** no pertenecientes al Atlántico norte, el descarte de marrajo dientuso (SMA) seguirá declarándose bajo motivo "**no sujeto a obligación de desembarque**" (**NOD**).

En las **aguas extracomunitarias** no pertenecientes al Atlántico norte, el descarte de marrajo dientuso (SMA) seguirá declarándose bajo motivo "**otros**" (**OTH**).

Además se recuerda la necesidad e importancia de especificar si los ejemplares descartados estaban vivos o muertos cuando el programa DEA lo solicite.

Cualquier duda que tengan relacionada con este tema, estamos a su disposición en bzn-dea@mapa.es o en el teléfono 91 347 82 69.

Reciban un cordial saludo

Ref. E13

CENTRO DE COMUNICACIONES DEA
SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE PESCA
C/ Velázquez, 147. Planta baja
28002 MADRID

From OPPs to associate vesselowners (example: ORPAGU)

23/5/23, 17:23

https://dinahosting.email/api/webmail/accounts/f987bf695f03d0b0f6068618a63184f987bf695f03d0b0f6068618a63184/fold...

Estimado asociado,

Le recuerdo que ya está disponible la nueva versión del DEA. Se recomienda su instalación en la próxima entrada en puerto.

Pasos a seguir:

- La marea debe estar cerrada y sin ningún mensaje pendiente de transmitir, si tienen transbordo y/o desembarque deben estar transmitidos.
- Desinstalar el DEA
- Solicitar al Centro de Comunicaciones DEA que eliminen el registro actual del buque (esto lo podemos solicitar desde Orpagu).
- Instalar la nueva versión del DEA. Enlace de descarga:
<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/app/dea/pro/deav4.zip>
- Registrar el buque, el código de registro figura en la hoja de las claves, si no dispone de él se lo podemos facilitar.

Para cualquier duda pueden contactar con la oficina.

Un saludo,

z
Gestión Pesquera
orpagu@orpagu.com

De: [REDACTED] IA | GESTIÓN PESQUERA ORPAGU <[REDACTED]@orpagu.com>

Enviado el: miércoles, 10 de mayo de 2023 10:00

Asunto: IMPORTANTE: Nueva versión DEAv4 2.0.0 y DEA Alternativo

Estimado asociado,

Le traslado comunicación de la SGPesca:

Desde la Secretaría General de Pesca se ha desarrollado una **nueva versión del DEA y DEA Alternativo** (Revisión 2.0.0) que incluye las siguientes novedades:

- Al instalar la aplicación, se **instalarán automáticamente los prerequisites** necesarios para el correcto funcionamiento del programa, incluyendo el cálculo automático de zonas FAO, de esfuerzo, GSA y rectángulo estadístico una vez se introduzcan las coordenadas en cualquier declaración, no siendo ya necesario instalarlos de manera independiente.
- Se incluye en la cartografía los **rectángulos estadísticos del Mediterráneo**, siendo obligatorio indicar el correspondiente siempre que se introduzcan coordenadas del Mediterráneo.
- Siempre que al introducir coordenadas se correspondan con **Zona Económica de España**, no será necesario rellenar este campo, ya que se mostrará automáticamente.
- El programa ofrecerá **guardar en configuración** para usos posteriores cualquier información como arte, especie, presentación y conservación, que no esté ya guardada en la configuración del sistema para mayor comodidad del patrón
- Se **mejora y amplía el formulario de especies buque** dentro del mensaje de desembarque y transbordo, para que sea más sencillo de cumplimentar.
- En el caso de desembarques en **ZEE de Malvinas o Noruega**, los factores de conversión no se calcularán por defecto, siendo potestad del patrón indicar el correspondiente para cada presentación.
- En el caso de rellenar y transmitir uno o varios transbordos parciales y a continuación acceder a la declaración de desembarque, se cargarán automáticamente todas las especies, kilos, presentaciones, conservaciones y factores de conversión declarados en los transbordos, **ahorrando el tiempo** de rellenar toda esta información.

Así pues a la recepción del presente, los buques que utilicen DEA deben instalarse la nueva versión del DEA y DEA Alternativo a la mayor brevedad posible. Se recomienda la desinstalación de la versión anterior ya que **no es posible la actualización** desde versiones anteriores, por lo que es **imprescindible disponer del código de registro** que consta en

pueden obtener desde los siguientes enlaces:

- DEA v4 Revisión 2.0.0 (<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/app/dea/pro/deav4.zip>)
- DEA Alternativo v4 Revisión 2.0.0 (<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/app/dea/pro/deav4-alternativo.zip>)

Pueden así mismo descargarse los manuales actualizados desde los siguientes enlaces:

- Manual de instalación del DEA (<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/docs/dea/DEA-Alternativo-Manual-de-instalacion-4.0.0-2.0.0.pdf>)
- Manual de instalación del DEA Alternativo (<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/docs/dea/DEA-Manual-de-instalacion-4.0.0-2.0.0.pdf>)
- Manual de cumplimentación DEA (<https://descargas.pesca.mapama.es/docs/dea/MANUAL-CUMPLIMENTACION-DEA-2023-04-20.pdf>)

Además, estamos a su disposición para aclararles las dudas que tengan y ayudarles en lo que precisen en el teléfono del Centro de Comunicaciones del DEA, 91 347 82 69 y en la dirección de mail, bzn-dea@mapa.es las 24h los 365 días del año.

Un saludo,

[REDACTED]
Gestión Pesquera
orpagu@orpagu.com

(+34) 986.61.13.41

(+34) 698.14.30.98



Annex 4

Email from ICCAT accepting and sending link to the Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (Portugal)/Hybrid, 17-21.04.23)

22/5/23, 19:05 <https://dinahosting.email/api/webmail/accounts/f987bfb095f03d0b0f08008818a63184f987bfb095f03d0b0f08008818a63184/fold...>

Asunto: Reminder: Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting starts in 1 hour
Remitente: no-reply@zoom.us
Destinatario: tecnico@fipblues.com
Data: 2023-04-17 08:55:02



Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting



Hi EU Xoan Inacio Amoedo Lueiro,
This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 hour.

Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting

Date & Time	Apr 17, 2023 09:00 AM Lisbon
Webinar ID	926 0739 5192
Passcode	██████████
Description	NextCloud https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/rJYs8ap2NsCgS6R PWD: TwgbWMmPHB

Add to: Google Calendar Outlook Calendar(.ICS) Yahoo Calendar

Link: <https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/rJYs8ap2NsCgS6R> PWD: TwgbWMmPHB


You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Please submit any questions to: nathan.taylor@iccat.int
Thank you!

WAYS TO JOIN THIS WEBINAR

- Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android

Email from ICCAT accepting and sending link to the the "Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and By-catch

Asunto:  Reminder: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH starts in 1 day
Remitente: no-reply@zoom.us
Destinatario: tecnico@fipblues.com
Data: 2023-05-09 09:13:15



Hi EU Xoan Inacio Amoedo Lueiro,

This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH

Date & Time	May 10, 2023 09:00 AM Madrid
Webinar ID	885 9931 1177
Passcode	166816
Description	Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch / Réunion du Sous-comité des écosystèmes et des prises accessoires / Reunión del Subcomité de ecosistemas y capturas fortuitas Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/FdBMS6YyLZyfQTs

Add to:  Google Calendar  Outlook Calendar(.ICS)  Yahoo Calendar

Documents/Documents/Documentos:

<https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/FdBMS6YyLZyfQTs>

Password: gG2kyJNsYf


You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Please submit any questions to: esther.pena@iccat.int

Thank you!

Email from ICCAT accepting and sending link to the the "Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and By-catch

22/5/23, 19:09 <https://dinahosting.email/api/webmail/accounts/f987bfb095f03d0b0f68068818a63184f987bfb095f03d0b0f68068818a63184/fold...>

Asunto:  **Reminder: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH starts in 1 day**
Remitente: no-reply@zoom.us
Destinatario: tecnico@fipblues.com
Data: 2023-05-09 09:13:15



Hi EU Xoan Inacio Amoedo Lueiro,

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Description	Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch / Réunion du Sous-comité des écosystèmes et des prises accessoires / Reunión del Subcomité de ecosistemas y capturas fortuitas Documents/Documents/Documentos: https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/FdBMS6YyLZyfQTs

Add to:  [Google Calendar](#)  [Outlook Calendar\(.ICS\)](#)  [Yahoo Calendar](#)

Documents/Documents/Documentos:
<https://secretariat.iccat.int/index.php/s/FdBMS6YyLZyfQTs>

Password: gG2kyJNsYf

You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Please submit any questions to: esther.pena@iccat.int

Thank you!

WAYS TO JOIN THIS WEBINAR

Annex 5

Emails with the formal request and appointment to meet. ICCAT WG EMS chair

Asunto: FIP BLUES request for a meeting in Vigo
Remitente: tecnico@fipblues.com
Destinatario: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu
CC: info@fipblues.com
Data: 2023-05-15 10:50:37

Dear Mr Ansell (Chair of the Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group. ICCAT),

My name is Xoán Lueiro and I am the current technical coordinator of FIP Blues (<https://fipblues.com/>). FIP Blues is a fisheries improvement project which is being implemented by the long-line fleet from Galicia (Spain-EU). Since the project begun we are happy to say our attendance to ICCAT meetings (Commission, Working groups, SCRSS) as part of the EU delegation has increased, in order to get more direct technical-administrative information on the topics that has an influence on the fleet and that way making our best to improve the performance of the industry in ICCAT, which is a key action in the FIP project.

Since you are playing the role of Chair of the WG-EMS we would like to have an informal meeting with you in Vigo in order to comment our interest in collaborating with the EMS-WG, how to get involved, extent and how to officially express our position as FIP Blues (that is, the industry) in this topic. As you know, our colleague Carlos Barciela (ORPAGU) had presented the project OBEPAL (standardisation of electronic observation systems) during the "First Meeting of the WG-EMS held on the 15 February 2023.

Therefore, by means of this email we kindly ask you to meet in Vigo, if possible, to deal with those aspects. We are aware you have a busy agenda, both in European Fisheries Control Agency and ICCAT issues. That is why we would not take you more than one hour for that meeting. We also consider that it can be of your interest to first-hand learn the FIP Blues aims and achievements as an evidence of the commitment of the industry with the sustainability of the fishery.

Please, do not hesitate to write back for any questions concerning this request.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

With best regards.

Xoán Lueiro

Consultor Técnico FIP Blues

(FIP Blues Technical Consultant)

tecnico@fipblues.com

Tel: +34 678235736
