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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

date of receipt: 4 March 2026

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.: C(2026) 1313 annex

Subject: ANNEX to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 1313 annex.

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Brussels, 4.3.2026
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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../...

amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

ANNEX

(1) In Annex VIII, Section I, paragraph 4, point (b) is replaced by the following:

‘(b) verify and, where appropriate, sign the information in the processing and/or harvesting declarations made by the master of the processing vessel, or the master’s representative, or by the trap operator.’

(2) In Annex VIII, Section II, subsection C, paragraph f, point (iii) is replaced by the following:

‘(iii) in both cases, verify the release order issued by the competent authority of the Member State or CPC concerned and, where appropriate, sign the information in the release declaration made by the donor or farm operator;’

(3) In Annex VIII, Section II, subsection C, paragraph g, point (ii) is replaced by the following:

‘(ii) verify and, where appropriate, sign the information in the processing and harvesting declarations made by the master of the processing vessel or its representative, or by the farm operator;’

(4) In Annex IX, the following paragraph is added to point 12:

‘Upon receipt of inspection reports indicating apparent infringements, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available this information on the ICCAT website in a secure manner and with restricted access. Any subsequent information regarding follow-up actions taken by the flag CPC shall also be published as it becomes available to the Secretariat. The information shall be presented in accordance with the table of the Appendix to this Annex.’

(5) In Annex IX, the following appendix is added:

‘Information to be provided on the actions taken in response to the findings of inspections carried out under the Scheme of Joint International Inspection

<i>Inspection report number</i>	<i>Inspecting party CPC</i>	<i>Fishing vessel CPC</i>	<i>Date of inspection</i>	<i>Vessel / Fishing gear type</i>	<i>Inspection findings¹</i>	<i>Infringement confirmed by flag CPC: Y/N</i>	<i>State of play follow-up²</i>	<i>Measures taken³</i>	<i>Remarks⁴</i>
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¹ Description of findings with indication of the legal provision(s) concerned.

² Under investigation, appeal, closed, etc.

³ Judicial or administrative measures taken, such as rerouting the vessel, seizure of catches or fishing gear, suspension or withdrawal of authorisation, fines, etc.

(6) Annex X is replaced by the following:

‘ANNEX X

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR VIDEO RECORDING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO
TRANSFER, CAGING AND RELEASE OPERATIONS**

1. The following procedures shall apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and release operations referred to in this Regulation:

- a) At the beginning or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorisation number or release order and the number on the cage(s) (as indicated in the transfer declaration - ITD) shall be displayed;
- b) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
- c) The video record shall be continuous without any interruptions and cuts, and cover the entire transfer, caging or release operation;
- d) Before the start of the transfer, caging or release operation, the video record shall include the opening and closing of the net or door and, for transfers and caging operations, show whether the receiving and donor cage(s) already contain bluefin tuna;
- e) The video record shall be of sufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged or released;
- f) A copy of the video record shall be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during the entire period they have authorisation to operate;
- g) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be immediately provided to the ICCAT regional observer and/or national observer after the end of the transfer, caging and/or release operation. The ICCAT regional observer and/or national observer shall immediately initialise it to avoid any further manipulation.

2. Each flag, trap and farm Member State concerned shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, editing or manipulation of the original video records.

Insufficient quality of the video record

⁴ Free text with any details the flag CPC wishes to provide. Where no action was taken, detailed explanation of reasons for not taking action.

3. If the video record is of insufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged or released, the operation shall be repeated until the quality of the video is adequate, following the procedures below:

a) for a transfer, the transfer operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with Article 43a (voluntary and control transfers).

For those transfers where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the voluntary transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer;

b) for a caging operation, the caging operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with points 2 and 3 of Article 49.

The new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty;

c) for releases, the segregation of the fish to be released shall be repeated in accordance with the release Protocol set out in Annex XII.'

(7) In Annex XII, paragraph 7 is replaced by the following:

'7. The ICCAT regional observer shall verify, and where appropriate, sign the information in the release declaration. The donor operator or farm operator shall submit the release declaration to its authorities within 48 hours of the release operation taking place for transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat.;

(8) In Annex XVb, the table is replaced by the following:

'Template for a processing declaration and harvesting declaration

Processing / Harvesting (please circle either)
Date of harvesting(d/m/y): / /
Farm / Trap (please circle either)
Cage number(s):
Number of individuals harvested:
Live weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
Processed weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:

eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested:
Details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation: Name: Flag: ICCAT Registration No.:
Destination of the harvested tuna (export, local market, or other) (please circle) In case of other, please specify:
Verification and, where appropriate, signature by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate: Observer Name: ICCAT No.: Signature: