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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2026/2019

of 10 September 2026

amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 ([1]), and in particular Article 66, paragraph 1, points (b) and (k), thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Union is party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), having approved the ICCAT Convention pursuant to Council Decision 86/238/EEC ([2]).

(2) ICCAT adopts measures to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the ICCAT Convention area and to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. Such measures are binding upon the Union.

(3) For the Union to comply with the deadline set by Recommendation 25-04 in relation to the management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean ([3]) on the submission of annual plans, the deadline applicable to the Member States must be brought forward.

(4) Moreover, a number of amendments need to be made to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 to update the transfer declaration form in Annex VI, as well as the caging declaration form in Annex XIV.

(5) As the provisions provided for in this Regulation have a direct impact on the planning of the fishing season of Union vessels and on related economic activities, this Regulation should enter into force as soon as possible,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 16, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. By 16 January of each year, each Member State with a bluefin tuna quota shall submit the following plans to the Commission:

(a) the annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, established in accordance with Article 11;

([1]) OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2053/oj.

([2]) Council Decision 86/238/EEC of 9 June 1986 on the accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, as amended by the Protocol annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Paris on 10 July 1984 (OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 33, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1986/238/oj).

([3]) ICCAT Recommendation 25-04 replacing Recommendation 24-05 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, https://iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2025-04-e.pdf.

(b) the annual fishing capacity management plan established in accordance with Article 13;

(c) the annual monitoring, control and inspection plan established in accordance with Article 14; and

(d) the annual farming management plan established in accordance with Article 15.';

(2) Annexes VI and XIV are amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 September 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 is amended as follows:

(1) in Annex VI, the table is replaced by the following:

'ICCAT TRANSFER DECLARATION

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Document No:</td><td colspan="2">ICCAT Transfer Declaration:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">1 – TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Fishing vessel name:

Call sign:

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:

External identification:

Transfer authorization No:

Fishing logbook No:

JFO No:

eBCD No:</td><td rowspan="4">Trap name:

ICCAT Register No:

Donor farm name (1):

ICCAT Register No:</td><td>1st towing vessel name:

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:

External identification:

Transport cage number:</td><td>Name destination farm:

ICCAT Register No:</td></tr>
<tr><td>2nd towing vessel name (2):

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:

External identification:

Transport cage number:</td><td>Name destination farm (3):

ICCAT Register No:</td></tr>
<tr><td>3rd towing vessel name (2):

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:</td><td>Name destination farm (3):

ICCAT Register No:</td></tr>
</table>

		External identification: Transport cage number:	

2 – FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION

Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _		Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
First transfer No 1 No individuals and estimated weight (kg) in first cage ([4]): First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ([5]):	First transfer No 2 No individuals and estimated weight (kg) in second cage ([4]): First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ([5]):		First transfer No 3 No individuals and estimated weight (kg) in third cage ([4]): First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer ([5]):	
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature: 1st receiving vessel: 2nd receiving vessel: 3rd receiving vessel:		Observer name, ICCAT No. and signature:	
Presence of observer: (Y/N) Estimated No of individuals by the Regional Obs: Seals numbers ([6]):	Reasons for disagreement:		Rules or procedure not respected:	

3 – FURTHER TRANSFERS [7] [8]

First transfer number:

FURTHER TRANSFER 1

Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _ ITD number:			Place or position:	Port: Lat: Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization No:		External identification:	Donor cage No:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving cage No:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:

No individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) [4]:

Further transfer:

Voluntary transfer:

Control transfer:

In case of voluntary or control transfer:

(i) Information on the receiving towing vessel:

Name:

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:

External identification:

(ii) Transport cage number:

Number of BFT that died during transfer:

FURTHER TRANSFER 2

Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _ ITD number:			Place or position:	Port: Lat: Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:	Name destination farm:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No:	ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization No:		External identification:	Donor cage No:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
			Receiving cage No:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:

No individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) ([4]):

Further transfer:

Voluntary transfer:

Control transfer:

In case of voluntary or control transfer:

(i) Information on the receiving towing vessel:

Name:

Flag:

ICCAT Register No:

External identification:

(ii) Transport cage number:

Number of BFT that died during transfer:

FURTHER TRANSFER 3

Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _ ITD number:	Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:

Donor towing vessel name: Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign: Call sign:	Flag: Flag:	ICCAT Register No: ICCAT Register No:	Name destination farm: ICCAT Register No:
Transfer authorization No:		External identification:	Donor cage No: Receiving cage No:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg) ([4]): Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer: (i) Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No: External identification: (ii) Transport cage number:			Number of BFT that died during transfer:	

([1]) To be completed in case of transfers between two different farms.
([2]) To be completed if the catch is transferred to more than one transport cage.
([3]) To be completed in case the transport cages are destined for more than one farm.
([4]) Number of individuals and weight estimated by the donor operator for the transfer considered valid. In case the operation has to be repeated, indicate as N/A in the relevant row (e.g. in case the first transfer and voluntary transfer did not provide an adequate video: First transfer: N/A, voluntary transfer: N/A, control transfer: 1 030 pieces, 123 600 kg).
([5]) Number of individuals that died and estimated weight.
([6]) To be completed by the ICCAT Regional Observer in case the transport cage is to be sealed in accordance with Article 43a, point (5) and Annex XVa.
([7]) To be completed by the master of the donor towing vessel for each of the transfers between towing vessels, which take place after the first transfer.
([8]) This section shall be completed for each first transfer. If more than one first transfers are divided into multiple transport cages, the master of the donor towing vessel shall duplicate the original ITD so that one copy of the ITD will accompany the cage(s) for the same destination farm.'

(2) in Annex XIV, the table is replaced by the following:

'ICCAT CAGING DECLARATION

ICCAT Caging Declaration:	Document No:
1 – CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA	
Farm name: ICCAT Register number: Caging authorization number: Transport cage number: Farm cage number: Date of caging:	Towing vessel name: ICCAT Register number: Flag: JFO number: eBCD number(s): Transfer declaration (ITD) number(s):
Bluefin tuna that die during transport ([1]):	

2 – CAGING INFORMATION – FARM OPERATOR AND ICCAT OBSERVER ([2])		
	Farm operator:	ICCAT observer:
Number individuals:		
Quantities in kg:		Not applicable
Number and weight (kg) of BFT dead during caging:		
Farm operator name, date and signature:		Observer name, ICCAT No, date and signature:

Presence of observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:

3 – CAGING INFORMATION – CPC FARM AUTHORITIES ([3])	
Number individuals:	Quantities in kg:
CPC authorities officer, date and signature:	

([1]) Total number and weight (kg) of BFT reported dead by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) which have transported the caged fish.
([2]) Quantities determined by the farm operator and ICCAT observer after analysing the stereoscopic camera footage of the caging operation.
([3]) Quantities established by the CPC farm authorities for the actual caging operation when data are available.'