20th Special Meeting of the Commission
St. Julian's, Malta
10 – 17 November 2015

Photo: Marius Roman

U.S. Delegation

Russell Smith
Ray Bogan
Geño Piñeiro

Kim Blankenbeker
Rachel O'Malley
Melanie King
Staci Rijal
Emma Htun
Oriana Villar
Margo Schulze-Haugen
Sarah McLaughlin
LeAnn Hogan
Craig Brown
Guillermo Diaz
Todd Dubois

Kim Dawson-Guynn
Derek Campbell
Megan Walline
Meggan Engelke-Ros
Bill Gibbons-Fly
Deirdre Warner-Kramer
John O'Brien
Jay Caputo
Luke Slivinski
Alexis Rudd
Yvonne Baker

Mike McGowan
David Schalit
Jack Devnew
Rick Weber
Sonja Fordham
Gerry Leape
Anna Beckwith
Carlos Farchette
John Graves

Meeting Dynamics

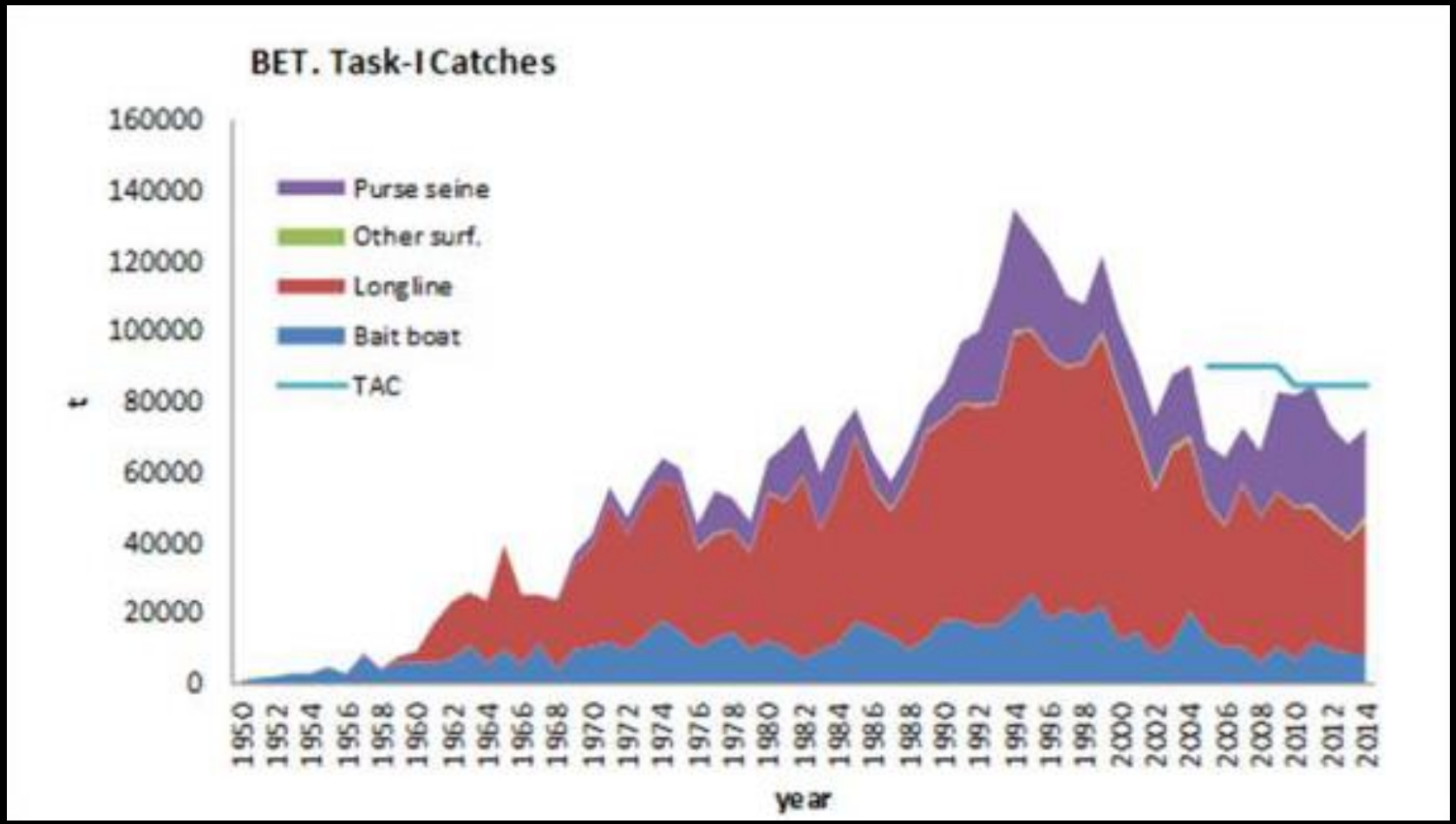
- 41 of 50 parties in attendance
- U.S. w/leadership roles
  - Mr. Derek Campbell, Chair of the COC
  - Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Convention Amendment Working Group
- 9 Recommendations & 4 Resolutions adopted

Photo: www.tripadvisor.co.uk

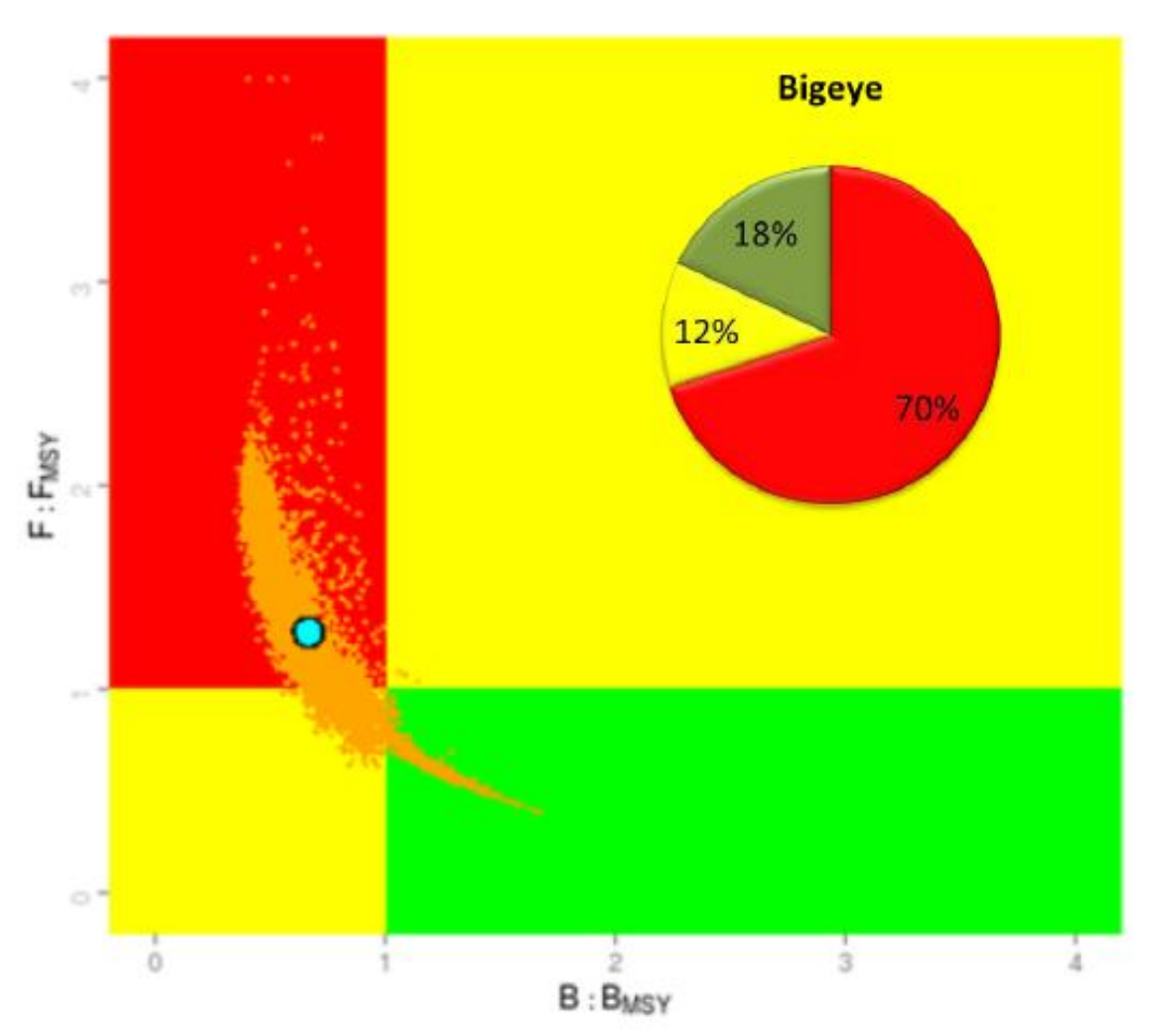
U.S. Priorities

- Bigeye Tuna
- Billfish
- Sharks
- Compliance
- Convention Amendment Working Group
- Improved MCS measures

Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Catches



Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment 2015

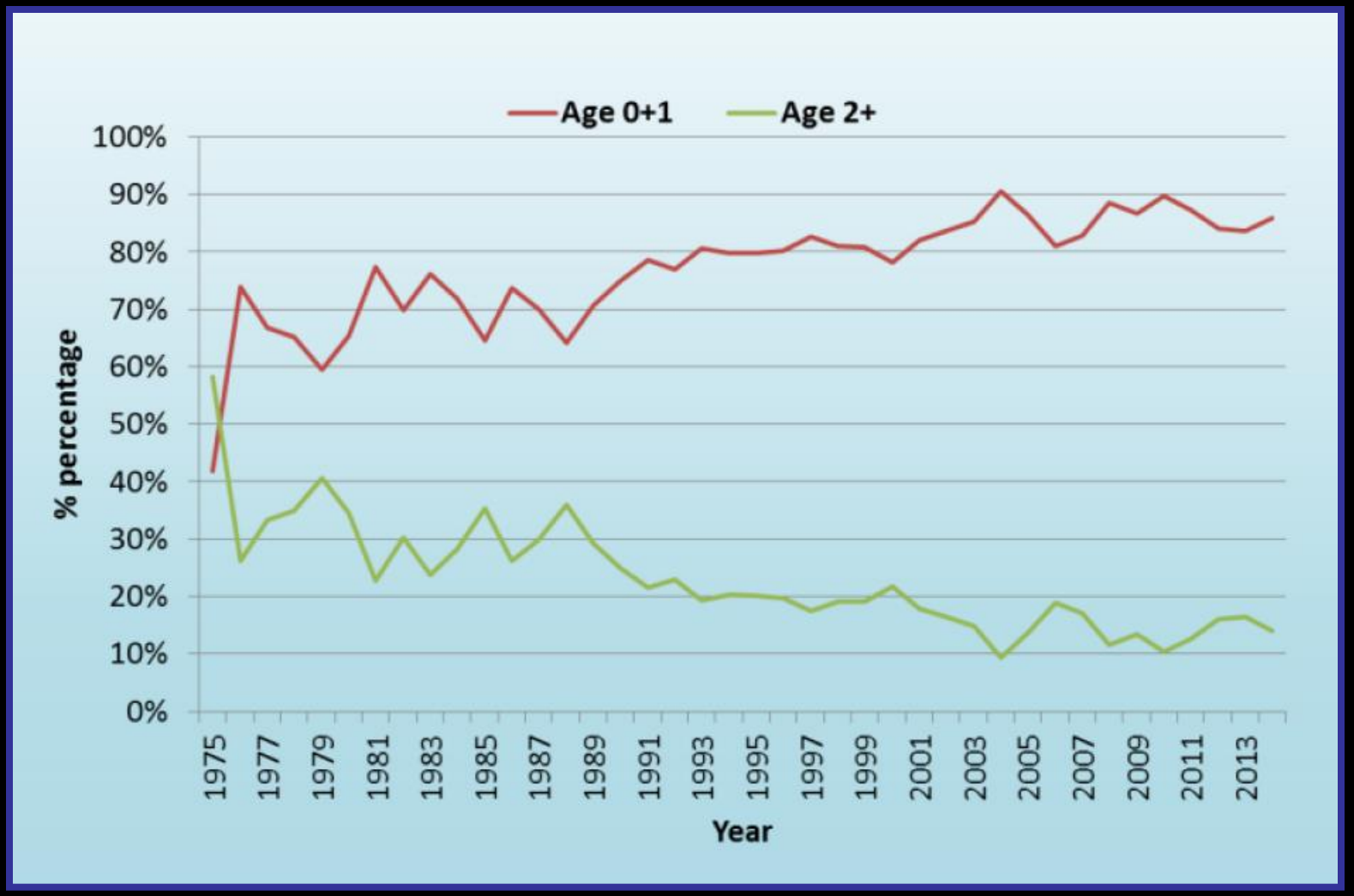


Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessments

	2010	2015
• MSY	144,600 mt	78,824 mt
• Catch	100,277 mt	72,585 mt
• B/B_{MSY}	1.01 (0.72 - 1.34)	0.67 (0.48 – 1.20)
• F/F_{MSY}	0.95 (0.65 – 1.55)	1.28 (0.62 – 1.85)

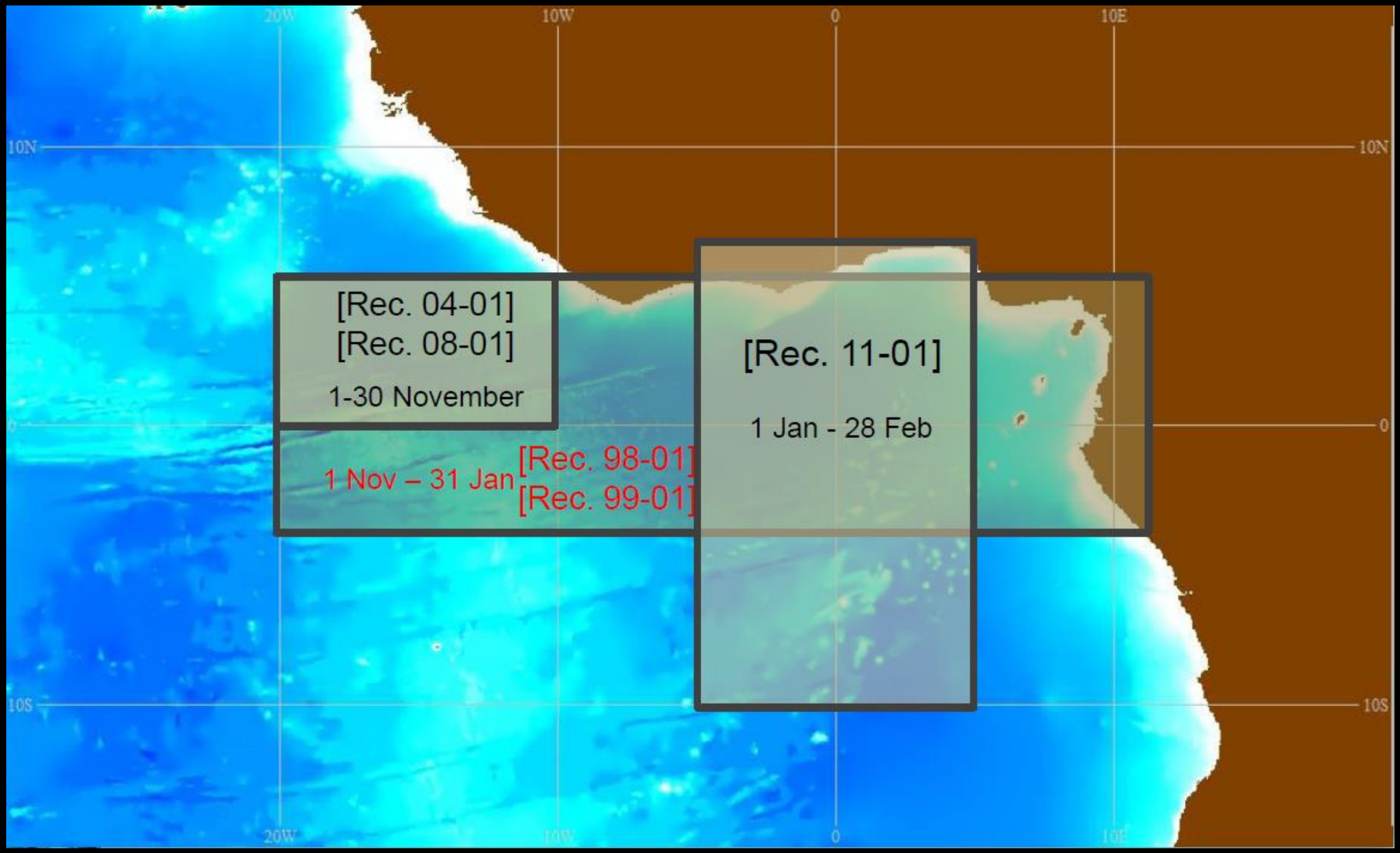
- What happened?
  - Increase in skipjack fishery
  - Increase in purse seine fishing on FADs
  - Time/area closure on FAD fishing "not effective"

Bigeye Tuna Catch at Age



Panel 1 – Tropical Tunas

- Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas (15-01)
  - TAC reduced from 85K to 65K mt
  - Reduced quotas for major harvesters
    - 25% developed nations
    - 10% developing nations
  - Carryforward reduced from 30% to 10%
  - Soft limit for minor harvesters
    - 3,500 mt for developing nations
    - 1,575 mt for developed nations
  - FAD time/area closure expanded to 2004 dimensions, still Jan/Feb


20W
10W
0
10E
10N
0
10S
[Rec. 04-01]
[Rec. 08-01]
1-30 November
[Rec. 11-01]
1 Jan - 28 Feb
1 Nov – 31 Jan
[Rec. 98-01]
[Rec. 99-01]

- Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (15-02)
  - Slightly revised terms of reference
  - Second meeting of the group March 2015
  - Work with similar groups in the other tuna RFMOs

Panel 2 –Northern Temperate Tunas

- Establish Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock (15-04)
  - Provides SCRS with information on management objectives, probability and time horizon
  - Defines management objectives
    - Maintain in "green" zone with 60% probability
    - Rebuild to "green" zone with 60% probability as soon as possible, 2020 at latest
  - SCRS to develop HCRs to achieve management objectives
  - July intersessional meeting (Panel 2) to further dialogue
  - SCRS to conduct a management strategy evaluation (MSE)

- Bluefin tuna
  - Dissatisfaction with eastern quotas (allocation), but Pandora's box not opened
  - Benchmark assessment for eastern and western stocks postponed to 2017
  - Panel 2 intersessional in March

Panel 3 Southern Temperate Tunas (Southern Albacore)

- 2014 catches well below TAC
- 9 parties request to carryover underharvests
- Assessment this year

Panel 4 - Billfish

- Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks (15-05)
  - Rollover of Recommendation 12-04 for blue marlin and white marlin through 2018
  - Opposition to any mention of circle hooks (even nonbinding measures to encourage their use or investigate their efficacy)
  - Continue efforts to improve data reporting from artisanal fisheries

Panel 4 – Swordfish

- Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish (15-03)
  - Original EU proposals
    - North and South Atlantic
    - Would establish swordfish vessel lists
    - Reiterated minimum size requirements
  - Adopted measure only covers South Atlantic and includes minimum size requirements
  - Swordfish vessel list may be discussed in 2016

Panel 4 Sharks

- Adopted
  - Porbeagle (15-06) – Finally!
    - Combined competing EU & Canada proposals
    - Live release of incidental catch in association with ICCAT fisheries
- Not adopted
  - Fins attached (30 parties sponsored)
  - Blue shark, shortfin mako, common thresher

Compliance Committee

- Some concerns:
  - Limited time for Compliance Committee
  - Presentation of compliance data (both in the tables and various reports)
  - Lack of reporting of observer coverage
  - Issues to be discussed at March intersessional
- Guidelines for implementation of Rec 11-15 "no data, no fish" (15-09)
  - How to report zero catches

- Identifications
  - Trinidad and Tobago (billfish overharvest)
- Letters formerly known as "Letters of Concern"
  - 26 CPCs
  - 1 cooperating non-contracting party (Guyana)
  - 4 non-contracting parties (Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia)
- No Action
  - 23 members (including United States)

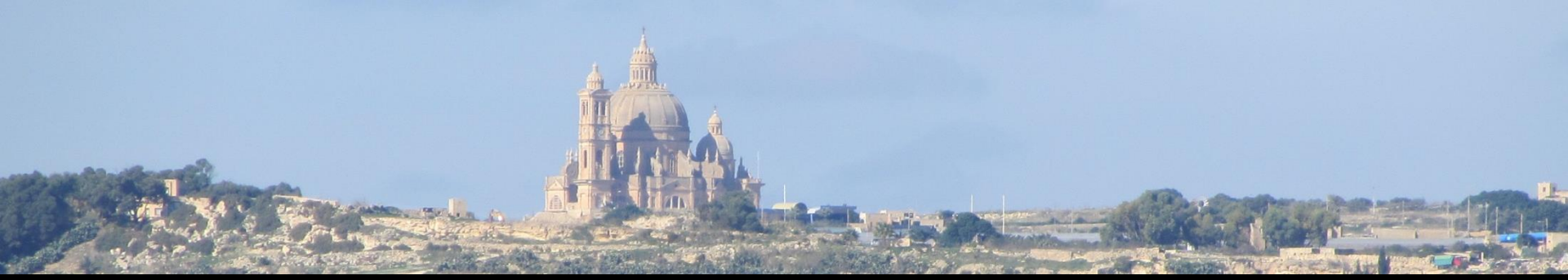
Permanent Working Group (PWG)

- eBCD (15-10)
  - Transition paper to eBCD
  - Start date of May 2016 unless Technical WG indicates system is not ready
  - Technical WG met in January
- High seas boarding and inspection
  - Recommendation or resolution?
  - Difficulties with some nations' domestic legislation
  - Continue discussion at IMM intersessional

Plenary

- Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation (15-07)
- Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (15-11)
- Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (15-12)
- Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (15-13)

- Convention Working Group
  - Issues resolved
    - Precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management
    - Objections
    - Allocation
  - March Intersessional
    - Dispute resolution
    - Taiwan



- Second performance review
  - 3 experts (fisheries management, fisheries science, international law)
  - Begin in March, conclude by November
- Executive Secretary search
  - Recruitment package adopted
  - Greater requirements for
    - Leadership and governance
    - Office management and operations

- Elections
  - Chair: Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana)
  - First Vice Chair: Stefaan Depypere (EU)
  - Second Vice Chair: Raul Delgado (Panama)
  - CoC Chair: Derek Campbell (USA)
  - PWG Chair: Fabrizio Donatella (EU)
  - STACFAD Chair: Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
  - Panel chairs
    - Panel 1: Côte D'Ivoire
    - Panel 2: Japan
    - Panel 2: South Africa
    - Panel 4: Brazil

2016 Issues on the Horizon

- Assessments
  - N & S Atlantic albacore assessment (April/May)
  - Sailfish assessment (May/June)
  - Yellowfin tuna assessment (June/July)
  - Med Swordfish Assessment (July)

2016 Commission Intersessionals (bundled)

- Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, Compliance Committee, and Convention Amendment Working Group
  - 2 - 8 March, Madrid, Spain
- FAD Working Group
  - 14 – 16 March, Bilbao Spain
- Integrated Monitoring Measures WG and Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2
  - 18 – 21 July, Sapporo, Japan

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL
ARMED FORCES OF MALTA