

25th Regular Meeting of the Commission Marrakech, Morocco 14 - ~~22~~ 21 November 2017



U.S. Delegation

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Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Alexis Ortiz
Leah Fine
Melissa Karp
Julia Snouck-Hurgronje

Rich Ruais
Jack Devnew
Gerry Leape
Rick Weber
Mike Pierdinock
Mike Sissenwine
John Graves

Meeting Dynamics

- 44 of 52 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
 - Ms. Oriana Villar, Chair of the Online Reporting Working Group
- Time challenged
 - Loss of a day due to scheduling SNAFU
 - Executive Secretary candidate interviews consume afternoon of first day
- 9 Recommendations adopted

U.S. Priorities

- Bluefin tuna
- NALB interim HCR
- Swordfish
- Shortfin mako
- Tropical tunas
- Convention Amendment Working Group
- Improved MCS measures
- Compliance



Panel 1 – Tropical Tunas

- Rec 17-01 Prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught
 - Retain and land all tropical tunas by purse seiners
 - Two exceptions
 - If not fit for human consumption
 - If catch > remaining hold space
 - Other gears encouraged to retain tropical tunas
- EU tables proposal reducing catch limits for BET and TAC for YFT
 - Ignored all FAD control measures in SA
 - Not adopted
- Proposal of South Africa (+7)
 - Limits on FAD effort and banned supply vessels
 - EU & Central American CPCs blocked; Not adopted

Panel 2 -Northern Temperate Tunas

- Rec 17-04 Harvest control rule for North Atlantic albacore (supplementing Rec 16-06)
 - Established interim reference points (B_{LIM} , B_{THRESH} , F_{TARGET} , F_{MIN})
 - Resulted in higher TAC: 33,600 mt for 2018-20
 - No change to allocation
 - Max change in TAC <20% if $B_{CURR} \geq B_{THRESH}$
 - MSE to be peer reviewed in 2018
 - Commission may refine interim HCR in 2018 on this basis

- Rec 17-05 Management measures for Mediterranean albacore
 - First ever measure for MALB
 - Each CPC to implement measures to prevent an increase in fishing effort
 - Limit vessels to those authorized in 2017
 - Fishery closed 1 Oct - 30 Nov (same as Med SWO)

- Rec 17-06 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna
 - Mostly rollover of 16-08, including allocation arrangement
 - Interim management plan pending outcome of HCR/MSE and stock assessment in 2020
 - Establishes TAC of 2,350 mt for 2018 - 2020
 - Mexico can transfer 128 mt to Canada each year
 - Continues GOM time/area closure but directs SCRS to advise on efficacy of restriction

- Rec 17-07 Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna
 - EU circulates 42 page recommendation
 - Some improvements to 14-04, but some significant changes of concern
 - Ultimately too much to get through
 - Panel chair drafts proposal to mostly roll over 14-04, change TACs and allocations
 - TACs
 - 2018: 28,200 mt
 - 2019: 32,240 mt
 - 2020: 36,000 mt

- Considerable discord regarding quota levels
- Three-year measure adopted
- Panel 2 intersessional meeting 5 - 7 March
 - Review 2018 fishing plans
 - Review 2019 and 2020 allocations using unallocated reserve



Panel 4 - Swordfish, Billfish, Sharks...

- Rec 17-02 North Atlantic Swordfish
 - Four year measure (to avoid overlapping with BFT cycle)
 - TAC: 13,200 mt
 - 500t reduction, in line with scientific advice
 - Sharing arrangement not changed
 - If TAC exceeded, catch limits reduced on a pro rata basis
- Rec 17-03 South Atlantic Swordfish
 - Four year measure
 - TAC: 14,000 mt
 - 1000t reduction, in line with scientific advice
 - If TAC exceeded, catch limits reduced on a pro rata basis

- Rec 17-08 North Atlantic shortfin mako
 - Live release required, but...
 - Retention of dead fish allowed if:
 - Vessels $\leq 12\text{m}$
 - Vessels $> 12\text{m}$ w/ observer/EMS + data reporting
 - Retention $<$ vessel's avg landings w/ observer onboard, verified by logbooks/landing inspection
 - Retention of live or dead fish allowed if domestic law has min size: males $>180\text{ cm FL}$; females: 210 cm FL
 - In 2018, Commission to review reported catches
 - In 2019, SCRS to evaluate effectiveness and generate timeframes for rebuilding in $>2\text{ MGT}$
- EU proposal for South Atlantic not adopted

- Fins attached
 - Approx. 30 parties co-sponsored or supported; not adopted
- Sea Turtle Conservation
 - Proposal based on SCRS advice would require use of circle hooks or finfish bait on shallow set longlines
 - Several cosponsors but not adopted

Compliance Committee

- Identifications lifted:
 - Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, Trinidad & Tobago, Cambodia, and Grenada
- Identifications maintained:
 - Sierra Leone and Dominica
- Letters detailing compliance concerns and/or requests for more info to
 - 38 parties
 - St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and Gibraltar

- Letters on prohibition of retention of ICCAT species
 - Those missing Task 1 data after 1 Dec 17
 - Brazil given until 31 Mar 18
- Renewed Cooperating party status
 - Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname
- COC will meet for 2 days prior to start of 2018 Commission meeting

Permanent Working Group (PWG)

- Rec 17-09 Application of EBCD system
 - Extended EU validation derogations for small fish that are tagged, certain processed product types; also changes to rules for using paper if system technical difficulty
- IUU list adopted
- Several proposals and other priority issues referred to Intersessional IMM meeting (April 9-12), including two US proposals (observer safety, at-sea inspector exchange), VMS, PSMA, and IUU vessel list criteria and process.

STACFAD

- Working Capital Fund now at 15% of annual budget - the target level agreed by Commission
- Biennial budget (2018-19) adopted
 - Increase of 5% for 2018 and another 5% for 2019
 - SCRS funding changes - renaming Chapter 11 to "Research Strategic Programme" (new approach) and including funding activities under the regular budget, not the WCF
 - The Scientific Capacity Building Fund will be used to support additional SCRS activities

Plenary

- Convention Amendment Working Group
 - Progress on Fishing Entity/Depositary issue
 - Need one more meeting (hopefully!)
- New Executive Secretary
 - Camille Jean Pierre Manel, Senegal
 - Will start officially in July; will attend some intersessional meetings prior to that time.

- Elections

- Commission Chair: Raul Delgado, Panama*
- 1st Vice Chair: Stefaan Depypere, EU
- 2nd Vice Chair: Zakia Driouich, Morocco*
- COC: Derek Campbell, USA
- PWG: Neil Ansell, EU^
- STACFAD: Hasan Alper Elekon, Turkey*
- Panel 1: Cote D'Ivoire
- Panel 2: Japan
- Panel 3: South Africa
- Panel 4: Brazil

*newly elected

^previously EU-Donatella

2018 ICCAT Calendar (major SCRS meetings)

- Assessments
 - Blue marlin
 - Data Preparatory meeting: 12 - 16 March
 - Assessment: 18 - 22 June
 - Bigeye tuna
 - Data preparatory meeting: 23 - 27 April
 - Assessment: 16 - 20 July
- MSE (bluefin tuna and N. Atl. Swordfish)
 - 16-20 April in Madrid

- Commission Intersessionals
 - Panel 2 (EBFT): 5 - 7 March
 - Online Reporting WG: 26 - 27 March
 - IMM WG: 9 - 12 April
 - SWGSM: 21 - 23 May
 - Convention Amendment WG: 24 - 25 May
 - Panel 1: 23 - 25 July
 - Port Inspection/Capacity Building: 18-19 Sept
- Commission Meeting
 - Croatia, 12 - 19 November
 - Compliance Committee, 10 - 11 November



Thanks to Craig, Ray, and Terra for the photos!