

26th Regular Meeting of the Commission

18 - 25 November 2019
Palma de Mallorca, Spain



Dr. John Graves
ICCAT Advisory Committee

U.S. Priorities 2019

- Bigeye tuna
- Marlins
- Shortfin mako
- Convention Amendment
- Improved MCS measures
- Compliance
- Advance HCR/MSE
- Bycatch issues



U.S. Delegation

NOAA

Alexa Cole
Kim Blankenkemper
Rachel O'Malley
Melanie King
Oriana Villar
Terra Lederhouse
Madison Harris
Randy Blankinship
Larry Redd
Sarah McLaughlin
Carrie Soltanoff
Alex Miller
Megan Walline
Derek Campbell
Meggan Engelke-Ros
Craig Brown
Guillermo Diaz
Wynn Carney

Commissioners

Drew Lawler
Geño Piñeiro
Ray Bogan

Department of State

Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Jill Hamilton
Nadia Sbeih
Alexis Ortiz

USTR

Katy Sater

Advisory Committee Members

Walt Golet
Gerry Leape
David Schalit
Glenn Delaney
Dewey Hemilright
Rick Weber
Pam Dana
Marcos Hanke
John Graves



Meeting Dynamics

- 47 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
- 12 Recommendations & 5 Resolutions adopted
- Convention Amendment Protocol adopted!



Panel 1 (Tropical Tunas)

- Two-day Panel 1 intersessional prior to start of the ICCAT meeting
- Start w/Chair's proposal from last year & subsequent input, but 3 competing proposals to amend the Chair's
 - Latin American CPCs; West African CPCs; EU
- Panel Chair provides little leadership
- Develop a bracketed document - move through item by item
- Endless interventions - really!
- Amazing that we ended up with a consensus document

Tropical Tunas (Rec 19-02)

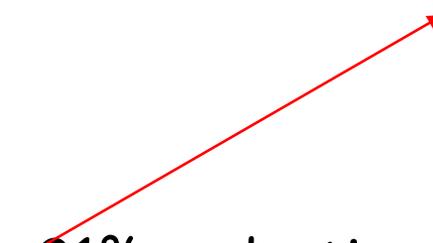
- Bigeye TAC:

- 62,500 mt for 2020
- 61,500 mt for 2021

- Bigeye Catch limits:

- CPCs w/ >10,000 mt -- 21% reduction
- CPCs w/ >3,500 mt* -- 17% reduction
- CPCs w/ >1,000 mt* -- 10% reduction
- CPCs w <1,000 mt* -- endeavor to not increase

*average recent catch (typically, 2014 - 2017)



<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual catch limits for the period 2016-2018 (t)</i>
China	5,376
European Union	16,989
Ghana	4,250
Japan	17,696
Philippines	286
Korea	1,486
Chinese Taipei	11,679

From Rec 16-01

- Yellowfin TAC

- 110,000 mt
- Catch limits to be determined at 2020 meeting

- If annual catch limit > 1,000 mt, submit annual capacity/fishing plan
- Overage applied to catch limits; two consecutive years, 125%
- Rollover of underages capped at 10%
- FADs
 - Atlantic-wide FAD closure
 - 1 Jan - 28 Feb 2020
 - 1 Jan - 31 Mar 2021
 - FAD limitations
 - 350/vessel 2020
 - 300/vessel 2021
 - Annual FAD management plans (purse seines, baitboats)



- Observer coverage
 - Purse seine: 100%
 - PLL (>20m LOA): 10% (human or video)
- Many other MCS measures
- Transfers
 - Korea to Chinese Taipei: 223 mt (2020)
 - Japan to China (600 mt)
 - Japan to EU (300 mt)*
- Panel 1 Intersessional April 2020 (postponed)

Panel 2 (Northern Temperate Tunas)

- Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
 - SCRS to conduct a stock assessment update this year
 - provide TAC advice for 2021 & 2022
- Rec 19-04 Eastern Atlantic & Med Bluefin Tuna
 - Amends Rec 18-02
 - Corrects errors and inconsistencies
 - Clarifies ambiguous text
 - Reviewed 18-02, paragraph by paragraph, all 47 pages!



- Res 19-15 Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures
 - Establishes working group (reports to Panel 2)
 - Identify weaknesses & loopholes in control & traceability measures (focus on catch of live bluefin)
 - Recommend additional measures
 - Prevent IUU activities & illegal trade
 - First meeting March 2020
- Northern Albacore MSE
 - Exceptional circumstances
 - Panel Chair to develop proposal for Panel 2 intersessional meeting March 2020



Panel 3

Southern Albacore

- Not much to report!
- Requests to carryforward and share underages submitted



Panel 4 (Swordfish & Marlins & Sharks, oh my!)

Swordfish

- Res 19-14 Initial Management Objectives for N. Atl. Swordfish

Billfish

- Rec 19-05 Billfish Rebuilding Plan (compromise text)
 - TACs
 - BUM: 2,000 mt -> 1,670 mt
 - WHM/RSS: 400 mt -> 355 mt
 - CPC-specific catch limits
 - Those not on list limited to 10 mt BUM, 2 mt WHM/RSS
 - U.S. maintains limit of 250 BUM + WHM/RSS
 - No carryforward of underages as of 2020
 - Requires live release from PLL & PS (to the extent possible)
 - Strengthens data collection and reporting requirements

Sharks

- Fins Attached
 - 32 co-sponsors
 - No consensus
- Rec 19-07 N. Atl. Blue Shark
 - Amends Rec 16-12 with CPC-specific catch limits
 - TAC 39,102 mt (EU 32,578; Japan 4,010 mt; Morocco 1,644 mt)
 - 870 mt for others; maintain catches at current levels
 - Does not address dead discards
- Rec 19-08 S. Atl. Blue Shark
 - Sets TAC of 28,923 mt
 - Address allocation of TAC (catch limits) in 2021



- Shortfin Mako
 - Proposals by U.S. & Curaçao, Senegal (+9), EU
 - Senegal's proposal (no retention) had the most support
 - No consensus
 - Chair introduces Rec 19-06
 - Rollover of Rec 17-08 for one year
 - Discussions to continue at Panel 4 intersessional in July
- Sea Turtles (aka, circle hooks)
 - US proposal w/ 11 co-sponsors
 - Similar to measures adopted by IATTC & WCPFC
 - Included options to reduce bycatch & promote post-release survival
 - No consensus

Compliance Committee

- 2019 was a "light" COC year
- Effort to improve compliance reporting
 - Billfish checksheet
 - Shark checksheet
- Review of scientific observer programs
 - >50% of CPCs not implementing minimum standards
- Compliance actions
 - Identifications
 - Maintained for Dominica
 - New: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Republic, Guyana, and Namibia



- Compliance Actions (continued)
 - Letters describing compliance issues sent to 37 CPCs
 - Letters to 3 non-CPCs (Gibraltar, Santa Lucia, and St. Kitts & Nevis) encouraging greater cooperation with ICCAT
- Endorsed process for implementing prohibition of retention of species pursuant to Rec 11-15 ("no data, no fish")
- Cooperating status renewed for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Colombia*, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname
- Georgia's request not approved (insufficient information)

PWG



- Rec 19-10 Observer Safety
 - Originally proposed by U.S., then from IMM WG
- Res 19-16 Companion to 19-10
 - Proposed by Norway
 - Provides for international harmonization of observer safety measures
- Res 19-17 Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel
 - Expands scope of Res 18-11 to include bluefin farms and traps

- **Rec 19-09 Vessel Sightings**
 - Originally proposed by U.S., then from IMM WG
 - Encourage CPCs to board and inspect some vessels in convention area, specifically:
 - Those without nationality
 - Those fishing in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures
- **Res 19-11 Lost and Abandoned Fishing Gear**
 - Introduced by Norway
 - Intended to reduce ghost fishing
 - Requires reporting of lost gear
- **US draft recommendation on transshipment**
 - Not considered after objection to late submission
 - Will be discussed at IMM WG meeting in May 2020



- Discussion of various eBCD issues
- Discuss potentially expanding catch document programs to swordfish and frozen bigeye tuna

STACFAD

- Biennial budget approved (5% increase)
 - Includes funding for
 - eBCD
 - Development of an Online Reporting System
 - Prioritized SCRS science activities
 - Concerns (a few, of many)
 - How to address CPCs with significant arrears
 - How to fund annual Commission meetings
 - How to fund SCRS priorities
- Role of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing

Plenary



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26

Regular Meeting of the Commission
Réunion ordinaire de la Commission
Reunión ordinaria de la Comisión

16-25 Nov 2019

The logo of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is displayed, featuring a stylized fish and the acronym ICCAT.

ICCAT
CICTA

A map of the Atlantic Ocean is shown, highlighting the geographical area of interest for the commission's work.

ICCAT
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CICAA

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- Convention Amendment adopted!
 - Rec 19-01 ICCAT Species
 - Res 19-13 Participation by fishing entities
- Commission elections
 - Heads of Delegation not able to reach consensus on new appointments
 - Incumbents re-elected (another ICCAT rollover!)
- 22nd Special Meeting of ICCAT
 - Antalya, Turkey 23 - 30 November 2020
 - COC Special Session 21 - 22 November



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CHAIRMAN



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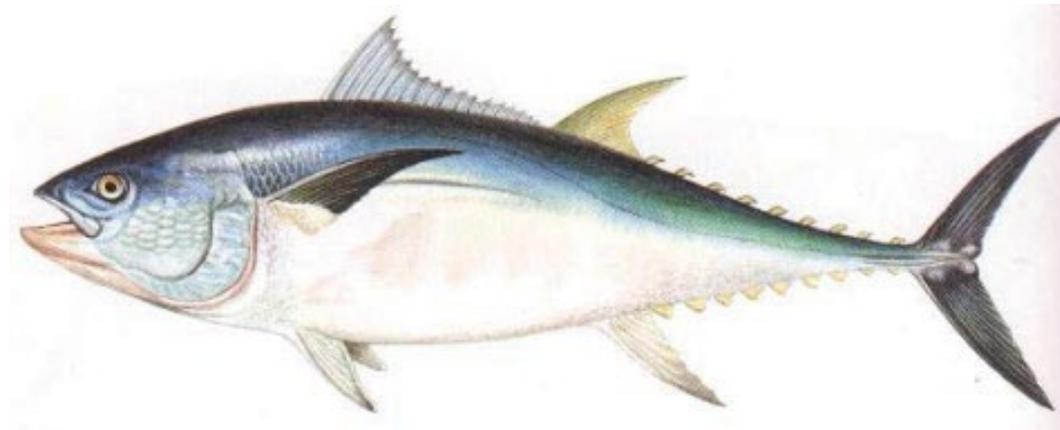




Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation Objective

“To develop an Index-based approach to managing the stock that takes into account mixing and many sources of uncertainty”

In essence: if index or combination of indices goes up TAC goes up; and vice versa



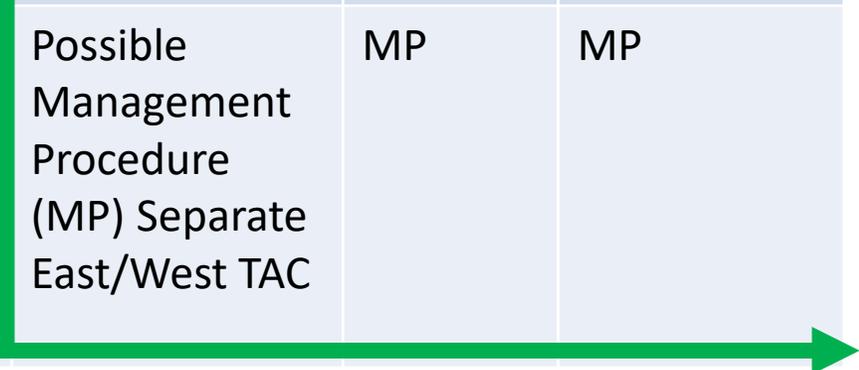


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Bluefin tuna MSE- a new way to set TAC



Method of TAC setting	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Stock Assessment models	2,350/ 36,000	strict update (TBD)	strict update (TBD)		
MSE, Management Procedure (in progress)		Commission to consider adopting Management Procedure*	Possible Management Procedure (MP) Separate East/West TAC	MP	MP



* Key decision point to adopt 'new' approach

** TAC from management procedure, usually 3 year constant blocks, separate East and West TACs as before

*** Exact timeline may be extended