

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2020**

NOTING the conclusions of the 2016 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is, most probably, not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

NOTING ALSO that the SCRS concluded that projections at a level consistent with the 2016 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot across all scenarios would increase to 63% by 2020;

ACKNOWLEDGING that total annual declared catches have been considerably lower than MSY.

RECOGNISING the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to MSY);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N shall be 24,000 t for the period 2017 to 2020.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2016, as reported to the 2017 ICCAT meeting, exceed 24,000 t, the TAC for 2018 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2016 catch in excess of 24,000 t.
3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows:

	<i>Catch limits (t)*</i>
Angola	50
Belize	250
Brazil	2 160
China	200
Chinese Taipei	9 400
Cote d'Ivoire	100
Curacao	50
European Union	1 470
Japan	1 355
Korea	140
Namibia	3 600
South Africa	4 400
St Vincent and Grenadines	140
UK St Helena	100
Uruguay	440
Vanuatu	100

* The following annual transfers of catch limits shall be authorized:

From Brazil to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2020

From Uruguay to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2018

From South Africa to Japan: 100 t in 2019-2020

All other CPCs not listed above shall limit their catches to 25 t.

4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:

- a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022

- b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.
- c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.
- d) In respect of the 2016 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available underage of total TAC.
- e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3.
- f) In respect of South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay, should any of these aforementioned CPCs reach their individual catch limits by 31 December, and any other aforementioned CPCs have underage available within the same year, then any or all of the aforementioned CPCs with underage available shall automatically transfer, up to a maximum of 1000 t collectively, in proportion to their respective original quotas to any of the aforementioned which has reached its catch limit for that year, on condition that such transfer of underage does not prejudice the transferring CPCs respective maximum underage allowance as set out in paragraph 4 (b). Such transfers shall be reported in CPC Compliance Reporting Tables.
5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.
6. All CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the south Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the Secretariat in accordance with [Rec. 12-07]. The Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.
8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2020. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2020 assessment.
9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2020 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2020. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2017 to 2020 TAC.

10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* (Rec. 13-13). Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing southern Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land southern Atlantic albacore.
11. CPCs may allow bycatch of southern Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
12. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2013 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore Catch Limit for 2014 to 2016* [Rec. 13-06].