

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-06 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE

RECOGNIZING that *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 16-06) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme* (Rec. 17-04) apply in 2020 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions will expire at the end of 2020;

UNDERSTANDING that, due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have substantive discussion on conservation and management measures;

MINDFUL that, under such circumstances, a one-year roll-over of the current measures with minimum amendments, including a pro-rata increase of catch and other limits, while not establishing a precedent, would provide a straightforward and science-based approach to management in this extraordinary year;

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

1. Paragraph 5 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“5. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 shall limit their annual catches to 242 t in 2021.”

2. Paragraph 6 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“6. By derogation to paragraphs 4 and 5, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2021.”

3. Paragraph 7 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“7. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC’s annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Year of Catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carry-over in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.”

4. Paragraph 17 shall be replaced with:

“Taking into account relevant scientific advice, the Commission shall review and revise Rec. 16-06 as amended by this recommendation and Rec. 17-04 as amended by Rec. 20-04, including consolidation of relevant provisions into a single recommendation at its 2021 Commission meeting.”