

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 19-04 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

RECOGNIZING that Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-Annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 19-04) applies 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;

NOTING SCRS advice that biomass indicators did not provide any evidence to alter the current management advice originally provided in 2017;

MINDFUL that under such circumstances one-year roll-over of the current measures with minimum amendments is the best option for the Commission;

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

The following amendments shall be made to Rec. 19-04:

1. Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for the years 2021 and 2022 shall be set at 36,000 t, respectively, in accordance with the SCRS advice. However, the 2022 TAC shall be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, at the 2021 Commission annual meeting based on new SCRS advice in 2021.

36,000 t shall be allocated in 2021 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2021 (t)</i>
Albania	170
Algeria	1,655
China	102
Egypt	330
European Union	19,460
Iceland*	180
Japan	2,819
Korea	200
Libya	2,255
Morocco	3,284
Norway	300
Syria	80
Tunisia	2,655
Turkey	2,305
Chinese Taipei	90
Subtotal	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	115
Total	36,000

* Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond 180 t in 2021 by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 combined shall not exceed 591 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t + 180 t).

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2021.”

2. Paragraph 7 shall be replaced with:

“7. Carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2020 quota to 2021. The CPC shall include this request in its fishing/capacity plan for endorsement by the Commission.”

3. Paragraph 15 shall be replaced with:

“15. For 2021, prior to 31 March of each year and in line with paragraph 116 of this Recommendation, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyse and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14. This obligation may be revised after 2021 to allow endorsement of the plans to be done by electronic means. If the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the automatic suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.”

4. Paragraph 18 shall be replaced with:

“18. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed by the SCRS no later than 2021 and each time that a stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.”

5. Paragraph 21 shall be replaced with:

“21. For 2021 CPCs may authorize a number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.”

6. Paragraph 23 shall be replaced with:

“23. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2021, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraph 16, a different number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such adjustments shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Northeast Atlantic in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).”

7. Paragraph 26 shall be replaced with:

“26. Those developing CPCs without or with less than three tuna farms and that intend to establish new tuna farming facilities shall have the right to establish such facilities with a maximum total farming capacity of up to 1,800 t per CPC. To this end, they shall communicate to ICCAT by including those in their farming plan under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2021.”

8. Paragraph 28 shall be replaced with:

“28. The SCRS, on the basis of a standardized protocol to be established by the SCRS for the monitoring of recognizable individual fish, shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period. Based on the result of the trials and other scientific information available, the SCRS shall review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c, and present those results to the 2022 Annual meeting of the Commission. In updating the growth table, the SCRS should invite independent scientists who have appropriate expertise to review the analysis. The SCRS shall also consider the difference among geographic areas (including Atlantic and Mediterranean) in updating the table. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the scientists tasked by the SCRS for the trials can have access to and, as required by the protocol, assistance to carry out the trials. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.”

9. Paragraph 33 shall be replaced with:

“33. Not later than 2022, the Commission shall decide to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.”

10. Paragraph 115 shall be replaced with:

“115. For the first time in 2021 and, in any case, after the stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that confirms the full recovery of the stock, the Commission following the scientific advice provided by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or on its possible revision.”