

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore

(submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom)

NOTING that in 2021, the Commission adopted a management procedure (MP), Recommendation 21-04, which sets the management procedure to achieve the management objective of maintaining the stock in the green area of the Kobe plot with at least a 60% probability while maximizing long-term yield.

FURTHER NOTING that the current MP integrates a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) to set TACs every three years. The current three-year period ends by the end of 2023, and therefore, a new three-year TAC cycle for 2024-2026 must be established.

CONSIDERING that the SCRS assessed the current management procedure, which results in a TAC of 47,251 t for 2024-2026. Any of the MP variants requested in Recommendation 21-04 would result in the same TAC due to the maximum TAC increase of 25%, which can be sustained in the near term.

FURTHER CONSIDERING that no exceptional circumstances have been detected that would preclude the application of the MP.

AWARE that in 2020, it was agreed to apply the TAC increase on a pro-rata basis to the catch and other limits. This approach will be followed again; however, it shall not establish a precedent.

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

[...]
[...]

[...]

Paragraph 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Recommendation 21-04 shall be amended as follows:

6. Pursuant to the application of the procedures established in **Annex 1** and **Annex 3**, a constant annual TAC of 47,251 t is established for the management period 2024-2026. This annual TAC shall be allocated as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for the period <u>2024-2026</u></i>
European Union	35,815.9
Chinese Taipei	5,521.1
United Kingdom*	<u>752.8</u>
United States	889.4
Venezuela	421.9

* This includes 200 t exclusively for catches in respect of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories covered by the ICCAT Convention.

Transfers:

- Chinese Taipei is authorized to transfer 200 t of North Atlantic albacore to Belize for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

7. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 6 shall limit their annual catches to 302 t.
8. By way of derogation from paragraphs 6 and 7, Japan shall endeavor to limit the total weight of its North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% of the weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

[...]

9. 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>
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028

However, the maximum underage that a CPC may carryover 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 by more than 20%, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting, including taking into account any advice of the SCRS pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of exceptional circumstances as reflected in **Annex 2**, and may, as appropriate, recommend further measures.