

**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 2024-2026</i>
European Union	35,815.9
Chinese Taipei	5,521.1
<u>United States</u>	<u>889.4</u>
<u>United Kingdom*</u>	<u>752.8</u>
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.