

Draft Resolution by ICCAT on the implementation of biodiversity conservation instruments

(Proposed by the Commission Chair)

NOTING the recent conclusion of two new international instruments related to the protection of biodiversity, notably the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, also known as the High Seas Treaty, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONSIDERING that the Commission's mandate to sustainably manage tuna and tuna-like species within the Convention area has significant relevance to the processes, objectives, and targets under these instruments;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Commission has accumulated, over many years, an extraordinary level of expertise in fisheries and marine science, of experience in fisheries management and ocean governance; and aware that the expertise and experience should be of utmost importance to ensure an effective, evidence-based implementation of the new global instruments in the pelagic ecosystem;

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

- Its members should further ensure the necessary coordination with a view to duly take into account the fisheries managed by ICCAT when implementing the new instruments, and should explore all possible ways in which the Commission could take an active role in the discussions leading up to the implementation of these instruments;
- Its members should further promote the collaboration with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO), and in particular, tuna organizations, with a view to a possible concerted approach by RFMOs towards the implementation of the new instruments;
- The Secretariat should collaborate with the SCRS, to evaluate the possibility for the Scientific Committee to provide expertise and advice for the implementation of the instruments, and explore ways in which the workload of the Committee could accommodate this new task;
- The SCRS should investigate workable examples of how marine biodiversity can be protected in a way that is compatible with the conduct of responsible and sustainable fisheries, notably through other environmental conservation measures (OECMs), either as complementary or alternative measures to area-based approaches;
- CPCs, the SCRS and the Secretariat should report regularly to the Commission on progress on the above.

At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission should discuss how best to ensure that ICCAT has an active role in the discussions leading up to the implementation of these instruments, including by adding a standing agenda item on this issue to the annual meetings of the Commission and SCRS.