

Original: English/French

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH FISHING PLANS SUBMITTED IN 2021
Rec. 16-05

Paragraph 10 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 16-05] states that: "Starting in 2018, CPCs shall submit their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 March each year. Such plan shall include detailed information regarding the quota allocated by gear type, including to sport and recreational fisheries (if applicable) and by-catches".

Fishing plans were received within the deadline from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Following discussion of the plans at the intersessional meeting of Panel 4, Morocco and Turkey submitted revised plans which are included here.

Name of CPC: ALGERIA

Year of Fishing Plan: 2021

1. Introduction

Algeria's 2021 fishing plan is based on the provisions of Recommendation 16-05 still in force, translated into national legislation, in accordance with these provisions, in particular Article 10 and the national regulation, Algeria presents its fishing plan for 2021 to catch its quota which is 486.91 t, i.e., a 3% reduction compared to the 2020 quota.

The national longline fleet is made up of 500 artisanal vessels with a length between 4.80 m and 14.80 m, targeting swordfish using surface longliners, and this in accordance with the relevant requirements of Recommendation 16-05 and the national legislation governing this activity.

The fishing plan is implemented to catch 486.91 t distributed among each swordfish fleet, a quota of 1%, i.e. 4.86 t has been deducted from the overall quota of 486.91 t, set aside to by-catch and incidental catches.

2. Details of fishing plan

The 2021 Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan has been designed to ensure compliance with Algeria's quota limit and the provisions contained in the legislation and the national regulations in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 16-05.

As each year, individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in swordfish fishing will be set following an equitable distribution method of individual quotas, according to the length and engine power of each fishing vessel.

Algeria's artisanal swordfish fleet is made up of 500 vessels, with a length between 4.80 m and 15 m, actively fishing swordfish using small surface longliners. In accordance with the current Algerian regulations, an annual fishing permit will be issued for each vessel by the fisheries administration to actively fish for swordfish in 2021, constituting a fishery prohibition during the regulatory fishing period from 1 January to 31 March.

With regard to the by-catch taken by vessels not targeting swordfish actively (trawlers and sardine fishing vessels), catches will be landed, declared and deducted from up to 1% of the Algerian overall quota, i.e. 4.86 t, or of the Algerian quota if the by-catch quota is exceeded.

In relation to control, a system is in place to ensure that the amounts of swordfish landed at the designated ports comply with the individual quota allocated to each vessel and the minimum trade size, which is 120 cm.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 16-05)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Fleet development plan (para 9)	The swordfish fishery in Algeria is a purely artisanal fishery for subsistence purposes, carried out by vessels mostly with a length less than 12 m and with low engine power. Aimed at a better follow-up and organization of this type of fishery, Algeria is in the process of elaborating, a text regulating this subsistence artisanal fishery activity in general.	Article 7 of Law No. 15-08 of 2 April 2015 which amends and supplements Law No. 01-11 of 3 July 2001 relating to the fisheries and aquaculture.	
2	Choice of fishery closure periods (para 11-13)	In accordance with paragraphs 11-13, the closure period is established from 1 January to 31 March.	Decree of 25 February 2018 establishing the swordfish fishery closure period in waters under national jurisdiction.	
3	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 21-26)	There are no recreational and sport fisheries fishing swordfish in Algeria.		
4	Allocation of by-catch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation (para 30)	By-catch will be deducted from the 4.86 t allocated to by-catch or from the Algerian quota if there is an excess of by-catch quota.		
5	Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)	Catches (in number and size/weight) are recorded in a logbook as well as in information collection sheets on fishing operations, nonetheless seen as though this refers to an artisanal longline fleet targeting swordfish and including vessels with a length less 15 m, the exact coordinates of fishing operations are not reported. In accordance with paragraph 37, of ICCAT Rec. 16-05, Algeria reports the volume of Mediterranean swordfish caught by the vessels flying a national flag within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.	Order of 16-04-2006 establishing the logbook.	
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)	As regular and random controls are carried out at sea by coast guards and each entry at port accesses is carried out to control compliance of regulations in		

		force, in particular the compliance of existing regulations, in particular with fishery closures as well as minimum trade sizes. For landings and quota compliance, these tasks are carried out by fishing inspectors deployed in 39 designated landing ports and reported to ICCAT.		
7	CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)	To embark scientific observers on board is a difficult requirement as fishing vessels are narrow and do not have bridges to allow the embarkation of scientists. However, Algeria has contemplated an alternative approach.	No device on board.	Alternative measures are used for the control at landing of catches and biological samples by fishing inspectors which are mainly biologists, and also by the scientific personnel under CNRDPA, deployed at the regional stations.
8	Other requirements (please specify)			

3. Inspection Plan

a) CPC inspection and control (para 13)

Algeria has established only one swordfish fishery closure period, from 1 January to 31 March of each year. The control and inspection system is summarised as follows:

Control and inspection of fishing activity at port access points is carried out by the National Coast Guard Service, as the authority in charge of the maritime police and ensures the compliance with fishing regulations. As well as these controls, this body carries out at-sea controls.

In parallel, other controls are carried out by the fishing inspectors of the Fisheries Provincial Directorate (wilayas) while monitoring the compliance of landings of fishing products, in particular when monitoring the swordfish fishery closure period to avoid any infringement to the national legislation.

The monitoring and control, ensured by the inspectors from our Ministerial department, is reflected in weekly reports, transmitted by the coastal Fisheries Directorates in the provinces (wilayas) to the central ones.

b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1)

Algeria has an artisanal fleet which operates in waters under national jurisdiction. Therefore, Algeria will not deploy in 2021 a vessel of international joint inspection in international waters.

4. Capacity management plan (paras 6-10)

Algeria's fishing capacity is represented by a fleet of 500 longline vessels, that must comply with the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 486.91 t. The registered list of recorded vessels targeting swordfish with individual quotas was transmitted to ICCAT on 14 January 2021.

ALGERIA

MED-SWO Vessel fleet	Choose one		Vessels New < 7m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total fleet (vessels)						% difference between reference period and 2017 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2019 (max 5%)
	Type	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)		Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)	2017	2018	2019	2020				
Longliner over 40m	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Longliner between 24 and 40m	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Longliner less than 24m				2	2	0	0	0				
Hand line	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Harpoon	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Sport/recreational (Rod and reel)	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Trap	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Other (please specify)	0	0		0	0	0	0	0				
Total number of vessels < 7 m		297	144	144	134	146	215*	209				
Total number of vessels > 7 m	304	297		297	301	305	285	291*				
Total fleet	304			441	435	451	500	500	1,30%	1,3%	0,18 %	
Quota	N/A			550	533.5	517.5	501.97	486.91				
Adjusted quota (if applicable)	N/A				522,83**	512.33**	496,95**	482.04**				

* Including a vessel measuring 7m.

** 1% of the Algerian quota, i.e. 4.86 t has been set aside for incidental catches.

Name of CPC: EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**Fishing Plan Year: 2021****1. Introduction**

The European Union hereby provides its fishing plan in the context of the Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean swordfish (MED-SWO), ICCAT Recommendation [16-05].

The seven EU Member States actively fishing Mediterranean swordfish are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the longline sector. However, catches are also made by more artisanal sectors such as longliners < 12 m, handline and harpoons. The seven EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspections means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The Recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish, ICCAT Rec. [16-05], has been transposed into European Union (EU) law by way of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154¹.

The closure period has been incorporated in EU Law by its inclusion in the Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021².

Concerning the implementation of a minimum fish size, Article 5a of the Commission Delegated Regulation 2018/191 of 30 November 2017³ clearly defines the minimum size for Mediterranean swordfish in line with Recommendation [16-05].

2. Details of fishing plan

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021 fixing the fishing opportunities for Mediterranean swordfish for 2021 and defining the closure period for vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish as well as the closure period applicable for vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC), the quota for the EU in 2021 was fixed in Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 at 6.560,44 t. In 2021, the TAC for Mediterranean swordfish was decreased by 3% in line with the ICCAT Rec. [16-05].

The EU will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2021 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 27 of Rec. [16-05].

The EU submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all Mediterranean fisheries, including highly migratory species fisheries, and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of those fisheries.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the Mediterranean swordfish fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Rec. [16-05].

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish

² Council Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021 fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

³ Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/191 of 30 November 2017 amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, regarding the Mediterranean stock of swordfish.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [16-05] the EU has allocated its quota to the following sectors:

<i>MEDITERRANEAN VESSEL FLEET</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>Type</i>	<i>Fleet (No. vessels)</i>
Longliner over 40m	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	16
Longliner less than 24m	1618
Total longliners	1634
Handline	52
Baitboat	0
Harpoon	14
Sport/Recreational (Rod & reel)	5464
Trap	0
Other (polyvalent)	262
Total number of vessels < 7 m	3819
Total number of vessels > 7 m	3606
Total fleet/fishing capacity	7426
Quota (t)	6560,44

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 16-05)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Fleet development plan (para. 9)			Not applicable
2	Choice of closed Fishing Seasons (paras. 11-13)	Period from 1 January to 31 March	The closure period is included in Annex ID of Regulation (EU) N° 2021/92 of 28 January 2021'	Within the EU's Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of compliance with the fishing seasons
3	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras. 21-26)	Only rod and line is authorized for recreational fishing. All catches are counted against the EU quota. The marketing of Mediterranean swordfish fish caught during sport and recreational fishing is prohibited.	Management of recreational fisheries is under the responsibility of EU Member states. However, the European Commission is informed at request of measures taken by EU Member States.	The way these provisions are implemented varies amongst EU Member States, including in some cases total prohibition of sport and recreational fishing activities by certain EU Member States. The limit of one fish per vessel per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.
4	Allocation for by-catch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para. 30)	The maximum by-catch limit allowed for EU vessels is fixed at 5 % per fishing trip and per day or one fish per vessel and per day depending of the EU Member State. By-catches and discards are counted against the EU quota.		Trawlers and purse-seiners targeting small pelagic species and tuna traps are allowed to catch one specimen of swordfish by trip per day.
5	Catch recording and reporting (paras. 35-37)	EU vessels fully implement the obligation to daily record all catches in the logbook (paper or electronic). All catches of Mediterranean swordfish, including discards (if any) are counted against the EU quota. Cumulative catches are later on reported quarterly to ICCAT, until quota reaches 80% when	Art. 33 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 ⁴ establishing a Union control system.	

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

		catches are communicated more frequently.		
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)	Compulsory pre notification before entering into a port.	Based on annual risk assessment, the EU inspections services will include in their national control plans as well in the Specific Control and inspection program, benchmarks for inspections at sea, ashore and the commercial chain for MED SWO fisheries.	Those inspection benchmarks are fixed by Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/1986 ⁵
7	CPC Scientific Observer (para. 44)	Part of the scientific tasks are covered by the EU data collection regulation ⁶ .	National data collection plans include already Mediterranean swordfish as one of their priorities for the Mediterranean.	
8	Other requirements (specify) Closure of albacore fishery (para. 12)	The closure period from 1 October to 30 November applies to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>). A list of vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat, under ICCAT Recommendation [17-05]	The closure period is inserted into Annex ID of Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021.	

3. Inspection Plan

a) CPC's inspection and control (para 13)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors.

The European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) coordinate with the EU Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are properly reflected in the EU and its Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under point b) below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy.

i) European Commission inspections

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate EU Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the recovery plan of Mediterranean swordfish.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2021 fishing season, the European Commission inspectors will once again be active in 2021.

ii) Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be followed up immediately with the Member State concerned.

b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1)

In accordance with Part IV of Rec. [16-05] (ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection in International waters), when at any time more than 50 catching vessels are engaged in Mediterranean swordfish directed fishing activities, the EU activates the Scheme and will consequently deploy an inspection vessel in the Mediterranean Sea during that time.

a) Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)⁵ to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Bluefin tuna management plan and the Mediterranean swordfish recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the EU Member States involved in those fisheries.

The SCIPs ensure a uniform and effective implementation of the conservation and control measures for all relevant stocks, including Mediterranean swordfish. With an approach based on risk analysis and the establishment of minimum benchmarks for inspections, the SCIPs increases the transparency, level playing field and efficiency of the inspections carried out within the framework of the EU.

b) Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for Mediterranean fisheries (including Mediterranean swordfish)

In cooperation with the European Commission and EU Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, Mediterranean Swordfish from and Mediterranean Albacore. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect focusing its activity on controls at sea and on land.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2021 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. EFCA also has its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessel and aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2021 JDP will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to purse seiners, towing vessels, longliners and farming activities for Bluefin tuna and longline fisheries and landings for the Mediterranean stock of swordfish. Focus will also be given to sport and recreational fishery. In 2021, the EU will conduct a minimum of 299 days of control and inspection activities at sea and around 57 days of air surveillance, which reflects the number of days committed by MS and EFCA for all species under the JDP.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the EU Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by EU Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the IMS (Integrated Maritime System) service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment. Cooperation of EFCA in the context of Coastguard function through sightings reported by FRONTEX assets has allowed identifying serious PNCs in non-EU waters in recent years.

c) EU Member States annual Inspection plans

Following Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 and in line with paragraph 6 of Rec. [16-05], each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2021 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control programme for Mediterranean swordfish. These are extensive programmes containing a description of the resources and inspection strategies that EU Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction.

These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), are drafted annually on the basis of a risk management strategy in conformity with Article 4 (18) of Regulation (EC) N°1224/2009 and Article 98 of Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 404/2011⁷, following procedures for a risk assessment and including a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent, in the particular case of the recovery plan of Mediterranean swordfish with:

- a) the monitoring of inspections at sea in the EU and international waters on the basis of a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector;
- b) the monitoring of the technical measures and, in particular of the closure periods (for Mediterranean swordfish and Mediterranean albacore); and
- c) the monitoring of inspections ashore, including inspections at landing and at first sale.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Rec. [16-05].

4. Capacity Management Plan (para 6-10)

The EU capacity plan is included below.

⁷ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy

MED SWO Vessel Fleet	Choose one		New < 7 m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total Fleet (vessels)					% difference between reference period (Year 2016) and 2017 (max 5%)	% differenc e between reference period (Year 2016) and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period (Year 2016) and 2019 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period (Year 2016) and 2020 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period (Year 2016) and 2021 (max 5%)
	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013- 2016)	Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021					
Longliner over 40m	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Longliner between 24 and 40m	121	18	0	17	16	16	16	16	-5,56%	-11,11%	-11,11%	-11,11%	-11,11%
Longliner less than 24m	5559	1836	0	1705	1680	1652	1625	1618	-7,14%	-8,50%	-10,02%	-11,49%	-11,87%
Total longliners	5683	1854	0	1722	1696	1668	1641	1634	-7,12%	-8,52%	-10,03%	-11,49%	-11,87%
Handline	50	58	5	52	52	51	51	52	-10,34%	-10,34%	-12,07%	-12,07%	-10,34%
Baitboat	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100,00%	100,00%	-100,00%	-100,00%	-100,00%
Harpoon	86	13	0	13	13	13	14	14	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	7,69%	7,69%
Sport/Recreational (Rod & reel)	5822	5463	0	5464	5464	5464	5464	5464	0,02%	0,02%	0,02%	0,02%	0,02%
Trap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Other (please specify)	1875	1566	0	299	311	269	279	262	-80,91%	-80,14%	-82,82%	-82,18%	-83,27%
Total number of vessels < 7 m	6574	4557	5	3872	3860	3847	3834	3819	-15,03%	-15,30%	-15,58%	-15,87%	-16,19%
Total number of vessels > 7 m	6945	4401	0	3678	3676	3618	3615	3606	-16,43%	-16,47%	-17,79%	-17,86%	-18,06%
Total fleet	13518	8958	5	7550	7536	7465	7449	7426	-15,72%	-15,87%	-16,67%	-16,85%	-17,10%
Quota				7410,48	7188,17	6972,52	6763,35	6560,44					
Adjusted quota (if applicable)													

Name of CPC: KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Year of Fishing Plan: 2021

1. Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 16-05, Morocco presents its 2021 Mediterranean fishing plan.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during the intersessional Panel 4 meeting held in Madrid, in February 2017, the 2021 national quota in the Mediterranean area amounts to **924.2 t**, i.e. 3% reduction compared to 2020 (established at 952.79 t). This quota will be distributed among the different operational sectors targeting swordfish: the artisanal and coastal segment.

In Morocco, Mediterranean swordfish fishing activity is regulated by the provisions of Recommendation 16-05 establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and Decree No. 1176-13 of 8 April 2013 on the implementation of a fishing management plan for Mediterranean and Atlantic swordfish as amended and supplemented in 2017 (N°3315-17 dated 18 December 2017) and in 2019 (Ministerial Decree N° 4154-19 dated 31 December 2019).

2. Details of fishing plan

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, established in Articles 6 to 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to fish Mediterranean swordfish is distributed as follows:

The catches of artisanal fishing boats and coastal fishing vessels are authorised by the Moroccan administration to fish Mediterranean swordfish and are accounted within the quota limit allocated to Morocco by ICCAT.

Artisanal boats fishing swordfish amount to 3,420 boats with no more than 3 GRT and an average engine power of 30 CV. The coastal fleet fishing swordfish amounts to around 213 longliners. These vessels generally measure around 19 m and have an average engine power of 210 CV with less than 150 TJB.

Coastal boats and vessels authorized to actively fish swordfish use handline and surface longline in accordance with the requirements of Rec. 16-05.

In the 2021 fishing season, the Mediterranean swordfish fishing quota is an olympic quota. Fishing vessels catch swordfish until the depletion of the quota allocated to Morocco by ICCAT.

The Kingdom of Morocco will comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 16-05 during the 2021 fishing campaign.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 16-05)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Fleet development plan (para 9)	The list of coastal vessels and artisanal boats catching Mediterranean swordfish are registered in the ICCAT SWO-MED Record.	These vessels are recorded in the national registry of the fleet and hold a fishing license in accordance with the Decree No. 02-92-1026 of 29 December 1992, amended and supplemented and establishing the terms and conditions of issuance and renewal of fishing licenses in the EEZ.	
2	Choice of fishery closure periods (para 11-13)	The closure of the fishing season applies to the period from 1 October to 30 November and during the entire additional period of one month between 15 February and 15 March.	Ministerial Decree No. 4154-19 of 31 December 2019 amending and Decree No. 1176-13 of 8 April 2013 regulating swordfish fishing.	
3	Recreational and sport fisheries (para. 21-26)	Currently, Morocco does not account for any recreational and sport fisheries but they could be developed in the coming years.	Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 enacting Law No. 15-12 to prevent and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing Dahir No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 on the maritime fishing regulation.	
4	Allocation of by-catch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation (para 30)	Mediterranean swordfish by-catch taken by other vessels which are not authorised to actively fish Mediterranean swordfish amounts to 1.22% of the quota allocated to Morocco. This catch shall be accounted and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco by ICCAT for the 2021 fishing season.		
5	Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)	Transmittal to the ICCAT Secretariat of quarterly catches of swordfish. Notifying the ICCAT Secretariat of the swordfish fishery closure (when the quota is reached).		
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)	Control at landing ports, fishing sites and fish markets with the obligation of effective weighing of landings of the artisanal and coastal fishing fleet prior to the first sale. Mandatory system of reporting of catches at landing and monitoring of trade flow through a catch certification scheme.		

		Use of the ICCAT swordfish statistical document programme.		
7	CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)	Vessels over 15m that do not actively fish Mediterranean swordfish. Therefore, national observers will not be deployed.		
8	Other requirements: Minimum size (para. 14-17)	<p>Catching, retaining, transshipping, transferring, landing, storage, selling, displaying or offering to sell Mediterranean swordfish less than 100cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) or, alternatively, weighing less than 11,4 kg live weight or 10,2 kg Round Weight (RWT) and Gilled-Gutted Weight (GWT) are prohibited.</p> <p>A tolerance of 5% weight and/or in number of individuals by landing of the total swordfish catch is permitted for vessels that incidentally catch small fish below minimum sizes.</p> <p>All swordfish less than the minimum size will be recorded and deducted from Morocco's allocated quota.</p>	Decree of the Ministry of Fisheries and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 dated 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) establishing a minimum trade size for species caught in Moroccan sea waters as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2412 dated 25 July 2018. This Decree also applies to high seas in the ICCAT Convention.	
9	Other requirements: Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)	<p>Transmittal to the ICCAT Secretariat of quarterly catches of swordfish.</p> <p>Notifying the ICCAT Secretariat of the swordfish fishery closure (when the quota is reached).</p>		

3. Inspection Plan

a) CPC inspection and control (para 13)

Fishery monitoring, control and surveillance practices will be implemented in accordance with national regulation and the provisions of ICCAT recommendations on control and inspection, in particular those stated in Recommendation 16-05. These practices fall under the framework of the national control plan of maritime fishery activities and will focus on measures concerning the following actions:

- Monitoring and control of landings of coastal and artisanal fleets with the obligation of effective weighing before the first sale and compliance with the catch documentation system implemented at national level. This national documentation system allows the control by direct systematic cross-checks between catch reporting at landing and the data of the first sale and allows a supplementary cross-checking tool for the validation of ICCAT statistical documents.
- VMS monitoring of fishing vessels is conducted by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with an online availability of real time position data for the Regional Administration of Maritime fisheries (Maritime Fishery Delegations).
- Implementation of a procedure for communication and recording of fishery information, in particular, through the implementation of an ICCAT statistical document programme.
- Compliance with the provisions regarding port inspection measures of foreign vessels and, compliance with the international commitments of the Kingdom of Morocco with respect to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Sea surveillance is also ensured by other authorities empowered within the framework of assignments conferred by national regulations.

b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1)

The Kingdom of Morocco does not account for catching vessels that participate in fishing activities directed at Mediterranean swordfish outside the EEZ (international waters).

Therefore, the Kingdom of Morocco will not deploy an inspection vessel.

c) Capacity management plan (paras 6-10)

See table below.

MOROCCO

MED SWO Vessel Fleet	Choose one		Vessels New < 7m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total Fleet (vessels)					% difference between reference period and 2017 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2019 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period (2019) and 2020 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period (2019) and 2021 (max. 5%)
	Type	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)		Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)	2017	2018	2019	2020					
Longliner over 40m		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40m		30		30	0	0	0	1	0	-100	-100	-100	-97
Longliner less than 24m		389		389	245	279	279	212	0	-37	-28.3	-28.3	-45.5
Hand line		2936		2936	3110	3244	2838	3016	0	+5.9	+10.6	-3.3	+2.7
Harpoon		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport/recreational (Rod and reel)		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify)		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of vessels < 7 m		2912		2912	3086	3220	2814	2882	0	+5.9	+10.6	-3.36	-1
Total number of vessels > 7 m		443		443	269	303	303	347	0	-39	-31.6	-31.6	-21.67
Total fleet		3355		3355	3355	3523	3117	3229	0	0	0	-7.09	-3.76
Quota (t)				1045	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.2					
Adjusted quota (if applicable)				1045	1013.61	933.15	930.79	912.9*					

* 1.22 % of the quota, i.e., 11.3 t, deducted from the national quota, is set aside for possible over-quota and possible dead swordfish discards.

Name of CPC: TUNISIA**Year of Fishing Plan: 2021****1. Introduction**

The 2021 swordfish fishing plan is presented in this document in accordance with the Rec. 16-05 establishing a multiannual recovery programme for swordfish in the Mediterranean.

Tunisia has an artisanal swordfish fishery whose average coastal units measure between 3 and 19 m and of which only 9% measures over 15m. The total number of these units is established at 818 units.

In Tunisia, swordfish fishing is regulated by:

- The provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and in particular Rec. 16-05, establishing a multi-annual recovery programme for swordfish in the Mediterranean.
- Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.
- Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of 28 September 1995 regarding the organization of fishing activity.
- Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 22 April 2019 regarding the organization of swordfish fishing.

Access rights to this resource is submitted to an authorization of coastal fishing issued by the competent authority. This authorisation is not specific to swordfish as this segment of the fleet targets other stocks of species using different types of selective gear, including longline.

However, fishermen comply with fishery closures and not target swordfish in these closure periods. The majority of the swordfish caught is destined to the local market.

The regulatory size is established at 100 cm calculated from the end of the lower jaw to the posterior tip of the smallest caudal ray, the authorised hooks have a minimum size of 7 cm and the number of hooks by fishing boat is limited to 2500 units.

In 2021, the swordfish fishing quota allocated to Tunisia amounts to 892.13 t.

2. Details of fishing plan

Swordfish fishing is conducted by pelagic longline and management of the fishing activity will be regulated in compliance with the provisions of ICCAT Rec. 16-05 and domestic legislation in force.

In 2020, Tunisia's quota, which is established at 892.13 t, will not be distributed by vessel, and it will more like affect all the coastal fishing fleet registered in the ICCAT vessel record.

The fishing season will be closed once the national quota becomes exhausted and a circular, concerning this issue, will be distributed to all the competent services for the prohibition of swordfish fishing, landing, transport and transformation.

	ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 16-05)	Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)	Note:
1	Fleet development plan (para 9)	Reduction in number of swordfish catching vessels (818 vessels in 2021 compared to 859 vessels in 2020).	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities. Decree No. 99-2130 of 27 September 1999 establishing the composition and functioning modalities of the advisory board for the organization of fishing activity, as amended by Law No. 2004-2138. Law No. 99-2129 of 27 September 1999 establishing the composition and functioning modalities of the advisory board issuing authorisations for the construction and the import of fishing units.	
2	Choice of fishery closure periods (para 11-13)	Swordfish fishing is prohibited from 1 January to 31 March each year.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities. Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of 22 April 2019 regarding the organization of swordfish fishing.	
3	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 21-26)	No sport or recreational fisheries will be allowed.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.	
4	Allocation of by-catch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation (para 30)	By-catch is recorded and accounted against the national quota.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.	
5	Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)	Number of days at sea of the vessels (small boats) actively fishing swordfish does not exceed one week. The captain of the fishing vessel records the information on fishing operations in the logbook. A copy of this logbook is transmitted to the competent authority at landing.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.	
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)	In-port inspections are ensured by fishery services who are responsible for controlling swordfish landings, fishing gear and onboard documents.	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.	

7	CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)	Swordfish fishing vessels over 15m, like all the other coastal fishing vessels, do not only target swordfish, therefore it is not foreseen to deploy a scientific observer onboard these vessels.		A scientific monitoring programme of swordfish fisheries is launched. It is based on the collection of scientific data at landing in the main production ports.
8	Other requirements (please specify)			

3. Inspection Plan

a) CPC's inspection and control (para. 13)

During the closure period of the swordfish fishery, sea inspections will be conducted by the certified national officers, i.e., fishing officers, national maritime guards, Tunisian navy and customs officers.

Control operations will be strengthened through control campaigns between the fishery services and other bodies (national maritime guards, national navy and customs officers). Control missions will be conducted during the closure period at the fishing ports and markets to ensure compliance of provisions taken in this regard.

b) Joint international inspection (paras. 39-41; Annex 1)

Catching vessels do not carry out swordfish directed fishing activities. However, these include multi-specific activities. In fact, Tunisia does not plan the deployment of an inspection vessel exclusively targeting this fishery in the Convention zone.

c) Capacity management plan (paras 6-10)

Table attached.

TUNISIA

MED SWO Fleet	Choose one		Vessels New < 7m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total Fleet (vessels)					% difference between reference period and 2017 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2019 (max 5%)
	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)	Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021			
Longliner over 40m	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Longliner between 24 and 40m	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Longliner less than 24m	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Hand line	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Harpoon	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Sport/recreational (Rod and reel)	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Trap	0			0	0	0	0	0			
Other (coastal fishing)	402			872	810	801	859	818			
Total number of vessels < 7 m	4			28	28	28	28	21			
Total number of vessels > 7 m	398			844	782	773	831	797			
Total fleet	402			872	810	801	859	818			
Quota				1007.694	977.463	948.14	914.71	892,13			
Adjusted quota (if applicable)											

Name of CPC: TURKEY**Fishing Plan Year: 2021****1. Introduction**

Mediterranean swordfish quota of 390, 40 t pertinent to Turkey will be assigned for utilization by 204 Med-SWO fishing vessels with special fishing permits for the year 2021. A % 10 of the quota will be assigned for coastal artisanal fisheries. There will be no activities envisaged for sports and recreational fisheries targeting Med-SWO. Distribution of the authorized number of fishing vessels by gear type in 2021 is provided below:

Mediterranean swordfish fishery will be regulated through the updated Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries.

2. Details of fishing plan

Details of all fishing gear groups that catch Mediterranean swordfish, including the total number of vessels in each group, is given in the attachment.

The individual quotas shall be allocated in accordance with criteria developed domestically in consideration of past performances of fishing vessels as well as regional and socio-economic aspects of coastal artisanal fisheries in Turkey.

A reporting system that would require fishermen to record and report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) following each landing within 48 hours will be mandatory. The reporting system shall involve regular landing controls and checks will be implemented to monitor and control catches and to ensure vessel and gear group quotas are respected.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 16-05)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Fleet development plan (para. 9)	N/A	N/A	
2	Choice of closed Fishing Seasons (paras. 11-13)	Closed Season: 15 Feb – 15 March 1 October – 30 November	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries	
3	Recreational and sports fisheries (paras. 21-26)	No specific quota is assigned for recreational and sports fisheries	N/A	
4	Allocation for by-catch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para. 30)	Maximum by-catch limit per vessel and per fishing operation shall not be more than 5 individuals. The by-catch in question shall be deducted from Turkey's TAC.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries	
5	Catch recording and reporting (paras. 35-37)	Authorized Med-SWO catching vessels above 15 m LoA shall record, report and communicate to the Ministry (either by	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries	

		<p>electronic or bound logbooks or in other means) weekly catch reports on relevant details of Med-SWO catches (spatial, temporal and biological details) following any given fishing operation without delay</p> <p>Ministry shall submit a compilation of weekly catch reports to the ICCAT Secretariat on a quarterly basis in line with the required format.</p>		
6	Measures taken to control landings (para 34)	<p>Ministerial inspectors shall perform regular inspections and checks at landing spots to ensure the validity of catches and level of compliance to individual quotas, by-catch limitations and other rules.</p>	Ministerial Notice and Circulars	
7	CPC Scientific Observer (para. 44)	<p>Scientific observers shall be deployed on at least 5% pelagic longliners over 15 meters LoA.</p> <p>Additionally, Ministerial inspectors accompanied by scientific observers shall perform regular checks at the most busy and operational landing spots to account for a 10 % of the total landings points, in a way to improve data collection and sampling</p>	Ministerial Notification, Notice and Circulars	
8	Other requirements (specify)	<p>Technical Regulations</p> <p>-The catch of swordfish smaller</p>	Ministerial Notification, Notice and Circulars	

		<p>than 125 cm is prohibited.</p> <p>-It is mandatory for the fishing vessels to catch swordfish obtain "Fishing Permit" from the provincial directorate issuing vessel's license. Applications by the fishermen to acquire a special fishing permit for swordfish is subject to some technical criteria. When an application made is approved by the Ministry, the special permit information is simultaneously recorded in the Fisheries Information System (FIS) operated by the Ministry.</p> <p>-When longlining for tuna and swordfish only hooks no. 1 and no. 2 with a gape width smaller than 2.8 cm is permitted.</p> <p>During the closed season, Med-SWO fishermen engaged in other types of coastal fisheries, trawling, tourism and/or aquaculture activities</p>		
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3. Inspection Plan

a) CPC's inspection and control (para 13)

Inspection and controls have been the major components of the activities of MoAF for ensuring the efficiency of the closed season and size regulations set for the Mediterranean Swordfish. The inspection activities, which are still ongoing, have been concentrated at most potential fishing grounds, landing points, retail and wholesale markets. Ministerial inspectors shall perform regular inspections and checks at landing spots to ensure the validity of catches and level of compliance to individual quotas, by-catch limitations and other rules. Each CPC will provide information on its plan for inspection and control of closed season.

In this context, 54 Kgs of Med-SWO have been seized in 2020 in consequence of the inspections conducted by MoAF inspectors at several coastal provinces. A total of 276 Kgs. of Med-SWO were seized by ministerial inspectors previously in 2019.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of ICCAT Rec. 16-05; a list of designated landing points for Med-SWO has been made available and reported to ICCAT on 26 February 2021.

In 2002 and 2003, EU and ICCAT enforced a recommendation prohibiting the usage of drift-nets in the Mediterranean. Afterwards, drift-netting in Turkey was also banned in 2006. Subsequently, Turkey announced its position for elimination of modified driftnet usage with the ICCAT Circular # 3225/2010. Accordingly, usage of all modified drift-nets has been prohibited as from 1 July 2011. Accordingly, all fishing vessels with the modified drift-nets have gone under obligation to shift their fishing gears in accordance with provisions of Revised Notification No. 2/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing. MoAF continued its efforts to promote the usage of more selective fishing methods and fishing gear by the majority of Turkish swordfish fishermen, with several regional training activities.

b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1)

Inspectors from Turkish Coast Guard have been trained to actively participate to inspections for Med-SWO in the context of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection.

Turkey plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2021 with 61 Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) Inspection Boats, 17 air control assets (planes/helicopters) and 349 inspectors. Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1- that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons are planned to be focused on for 2021.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2020's risk assessment data.

c) Capacity Management Plan (para 6-10)

Med-SWO Vessel Fleet Capacity Management Plan is attached below

TURKEY

MED SWO Vessel Fleet	Choose one		New < 7 m vessels in 2017 (para 7)	Total Fleet (vessels)					% difference between reference period and 2017 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2018 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2019 (max 5%)	% difference between reference period and 2020 (max 5%)
Type	Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)	Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016)		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*				
Longliner over 40m	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Longliner between 24 and 40m	9	8	0	3	5	0	0	0	-67%	-44%	-100%	-100%
Longliner less than 24m	235	230	0	244	230	217	204	204	4%	-2%	-8%	0%
Handline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Harpoon	30	26	0	24	22	20	18	15	-20%	-27%	-33%	-50%
Sport/Recreational (Rod & reel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Trap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other (polyvalent vessels smaller than 7 m)	7,015	6,704	6,674	6,674	6.372	6.252	6.133	6.063	-5%	-9%	-11%	-11%
Total number of vessels < 7 m	7,015	6,704	6,674	6,674	6.372	6.252	6.133	6.063	-5%	-9%	-11%	-13%
Total number of vessels > 7 m	277	267	0	271	257	237	222	219	-2%	-7%	-14%	-20%
Total fleet	7,292	6,971	6,674	6,945	6.629	6.489	6,355	6.282	-5%	-9%	-11%	-13%
Quota				441	428	415	402	390,4				
Adjusted quota (if applicable)												

*Number of vessels may be updated during the fishing season.